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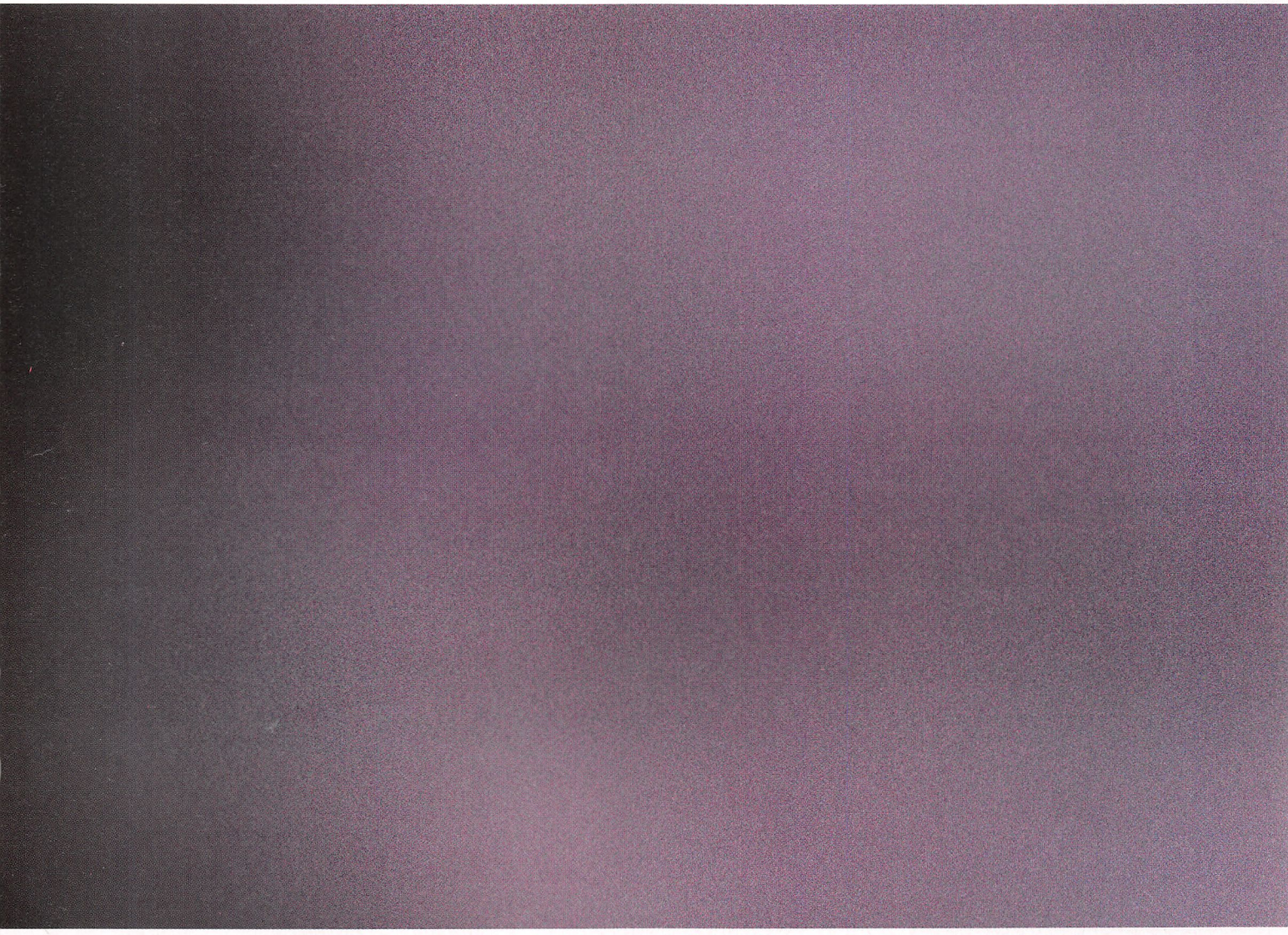

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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION is the world's No.1 independent guide to buying and owning hi-fi and home cinema. We have one aim – to help you buy the best kit for your cash so you can get more from music and movies

This month's hot news

TEMPTED BY A DVD player for under £100? It's difficult not to be, especially as we've seen them on sale for just £29.99. But what do you get for such little cash? Are these sleek-looking budget players worth buying, or are they better as doorstops?

As this month's *Supertest* reveals, even the most basic models are a step up from your VCR. But you get what you pay for, and many of the cheaper units are compromised, especially in the face of a winner which you can get for around £80.

Which got us thinking: how little can you get away with spending on a decent home cinema system? The answer, we reckon, is around £750 – much less with some judicious shopping. Even our recommended £899 system can be yours for less than £750 if you hunt hard enough. Credit cards at the ready? Check out page 62 for three systems that offer serious entertainment value.

Steve

Steve Fowler
Editor

Test centre index | November 2003

This issue's hi-fi and home cinema tests, sorted by type

Ratings you can trust from the magazine with 25 years' experience

★★★★★ *Supertest* winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★★ Very good
★★★★★ Average
★★★★★ Below par
★★★★★ Don't bother

Amplifiers
AVI Laboratory Series £1399 105
Moon I-3 £1550 105
Orelle SA100evo £1200 107
Pathos Logos £2495 114
Primare A30.1 £1500 107

CD players
Tube Technology Fusion CD64 £1980 14

Digital audio players
BenQ Joybee 120 £95 18

DVD players
Aiwa XD-AX10 £100 38
Alba DVD45 £40 38
Arianet PDVD-2277 £70 39
Bush DVD 2035 £70 39
Cyberhome CHDVD 505 £100 41
Cyberhome CH400 £50 21
Dual DVD 858 £55 41
Goodmans GDVD 141 £70 43
Pacific DVD 1001 £38 43
Roadstar DVD 2200K £100 45
Samsung DVD-E234 £100 45
Sanyo DVD SL22 £100 47
Toshiba SD330E £100 47

DVD/VCR combi decks
Bush DVHS1 £150 91
Hitachi DV-PF3E £200 91
JVC HR XVS20 £240 93
Panasonic NV-VP30EBS £270 93
Sanyo HV-DX2E £260 95
Toshiba SD-33VB £250 95

Hi-fi systems
TEAC Legacy 600 £330 12

Home cinema systems
Acoustic Energy Aego P5 £499 53
Bose Lifestyle 18 £1900 22
Creative Inspire GD580 £150 52
Jamo DVR50/A325PDD £699 21
Logitech Z-680 £299 53

LCD TVs
Sharp LC-30HV4E £3500 85
Sony KLV-30MR1 £4000 83
Toshiba 26WL36 £2500 85

Loudspeakers
ATC Active 20 £2695 23
AVI Neutron III £500 67
Dynaudio Audience 52 £624 67
Monitor Audio Bronze B6 £500 69
Monitor Audio Silver S6 £600 69
NHT SB1 £299 12
Quad 12L £500 71
Spendor S3 £600 71
Tannoy DC2 £649 73
Wharfedale Pacific Evo 30 £650 73

Multichannel amplifier
Parasound Halo C2/A52 £5200 16

Multichannel receivers
Panasonic SA-XR15 £230 23
Pioneer VSX-C301S £250 56
Pioneer VSX-D812 £330 57
Yamaha RX-V440RDS £300 57

Multiroom hi-fi
Yamaha MusicCAST £2500 77

Plasma TV
Sony KE-32TS2 £3400 83

Speaker cables/ interconnects
Atlas 2+1.1 £5.49/m 99
Black Rhodium Illusion £77 98
Ecosse Best Boy £25 98
Ecosse CS4.4 Biwire £9/m 99
Kimber Kable 8PR £153/4.5m pr 99
Precious Metals Silvertech Loudspeaker 4 biwire £25/m 99
True Colours Cobra £150 98
Vivanco Prowire SHQ £30 98

Surround speaker set-ups
Canton Movie 10-MX II £349 58
Elac Cinema 0.5 ESP £300 14
KEF KHT2005.2 £800 59
Mission Cinema m70 £480 59

VHS/HDD Recorder
JVC HM-HDS4 £700 10

Widescreen TVs
JVC AV32T25 £800 61
Panasonic TX-28PS1 £500 60
Panasonic TX-28PS5 £650 54
Panasonic TX-32DT4 £800 61
Panasonic TX-32PD30 £1400 8
Philips 28PW9618 £1200 55
Sharp 32-JF73H £680 18
Toshiba 32ZP38 £1300 55

NOVEMBER 2003

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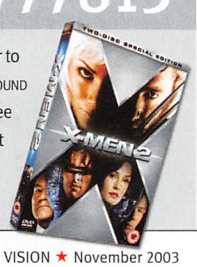


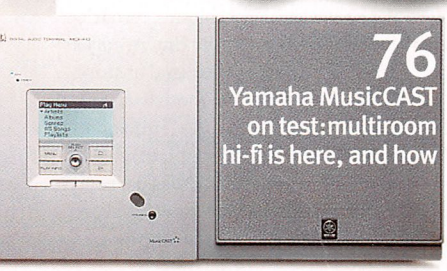
110

64 Floorstanders or stand-mounters? £500-650 speakers go head-to-head

114 Amplification doesn't get much better looking than this Pathos

80 Slim and very, very sexy: latest LCD and Plasma TVs reviewed

in this issue



News, views and regulars

What's new? 26
Full round-up of the WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Show; Creative's new iPod rival; Naim's 'budget' CD player

New gear 28
Pioneer's fab new plasma; latest KEF surround speakers; new headphones

Test discs: CDs 27
Why David Bowie's latest disc is a great system tester, plus Elvis Costello, Mary J Blige and Lizz Wright

Reader rescue 32
We take a Kiwi couple shopping for a top-notch hi-fi with export appeal

Test discs: DVDs 113
The Fifth Element Special Edition gets our vote over *Jungle Book 2* as this month's king of the swingers

Next month 138
Budget LCD TVs get the *Supertest* treatment, plus latest MP3 players

Test Centre 8

First tests 8
Ten pages of the very latest kit: Panasonic's awesome new 32in widescreen TV; cracking active ATC speakers; small, a cute and great sounding new MP3 player from BenQ; Tube Tech's fantastic new CD player

SUPERTEST
Budget DVD players 36
£39-£100 Can you buy a budget DVD player with confidence? Yes you can! We put twelve players under the spotlight to seperate the pedigree chums from the dog's dinners

COVER STORY
Budget home cinema 52
Take one superb DVD player (see above) and use it to create some of the best, and cheapest, home cinema systems you can buy

GROUP TEST
Stereo speakers 64
£500-£650 Should you buy floorstanders or stand mounters? Eight pairs fight it out, including big brother to some big Award winners

GROUP TEST
Flat screen TVs 80
£2500-£4000 Sharp v Sony v Toshiba v Sony again. The latest super-stylish LCDs and plasmas fight for attention

21 Style and substance: Jamo enters the lions den that is home cinema in a box

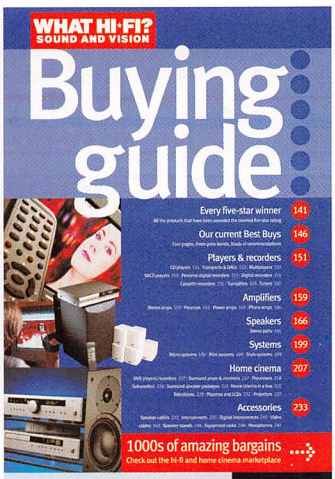
TEST EXCLUSIVE
Yamaha MusicCAST 76
Wireless music around the house is here – exclusive test of one of the most significant launches of 2003

GROUP TEST
Cables and interconnects 98
The latest wires that could boost your system – whatever your budget

GROUP TEST
DVD/VCR Combos 88
£200-£270 Simple all-in-one solutions if you've a lack of space under your television

GROUP TEST
Stereo amplifiers 102
£1200-£1550 Premium amps from AVI, Moon, Orelle and Primare

32 We take a Kiwi couple shopping to look for a hi-fi system 'to go'!



Over 130 pages of data, deals and verdicts 139

Advice Centre 118

Q&A 118
Your questions answered

Hi-fi sound advice 124
A comprehensive guide

How to hook it up	124
Latest recommended set-ups	126
Expanding your system	127

Home cinema sound advice 128
Everything you need to know

How to hook it up	128
Expanding your system	131
How to fine-tune your system	133
Surround sound explained	133
Latest recommended set-ups	135

Five-star winners	141
Best buys	Hi-fi 146 AV 148
Players & recorders	151
Amplifiers	159
Speakers	166
Systems	199
Home cinema	207
Accessories	233
Hi-fi marketplace	257

Picture perfect Panasonic

Panasonic TX-32PD30
32 in Nicam stereo TV
£1400
★★★★★

FOR
The best TV picture quality you can buy; well equipped, too

AGAINST
Er...nope, you got us

VERDICT
A truly glorious TV; if you've got the cash, buy one tomorrow

AS WE SAID in our recent Awards issue, we didn't get the Panasonic TX-32PD30 in time for consideration in our 2003 gongs. Shame, because this cracking set would have walked away with the top honours: it's that good.

Simply put, the Panasonic has the best picture we've seen on any TV. It's part of the company's new Acuity range, a picture-optimised, well-equipped 32in design that is ideal for the home cinema enthusiast (for why, see panel). It's an apt name: in the visual sense, acuity is a measure of the resolution of the eye, and the TX-32PD30's ability to resolve fine details is its trump card. It works by expanding the number of pixels per line of screen information to a whopping 2300, more than double the number of a conventional set. This combines with specialist picture processing designed to increase the number of horizontal screen lines from the standard 625 (as is sent by the UK broadcast TV system, PAL) up to 833. More lines and more pixels means more resolution, or detail, per square centimetre of screen.

But wait, there's more. The all new Quintrix SR picture tube (SR standing for Super Resolution) has black-tinted front glass to enhance the black level, and so boost contrast. A revised shadow mask allows the electron beam (basically, the bit that knits the picture on the screen) to pass through more effectively, which increases brightness. Improvements to the focus of the beam itself enhance both contrast and detail, while further tweaks to the electron gun (which generates the beam) are aimed at enhancing sharpness into the corners of the screen.

All this performance and it's a bit of a looker too; what more do you want?

> "Simply put, the Panasonic has the best picture we've seen on any TV"

And it doesn't even stop there. Panasonic has topped things off with a raft of digital processing modes aimed at icing an already very tasty televisual cake. Picture content is constantly analyzed in 'real time' by a 10-bit processor, which uses motion detection to reduce 'smearing' in rapid image sequences, while a digital comb filter aims to cut down 'noise' between areas of black and white screen information. We've commented before that in some sets, the end result of all this digital processing can be less than beneficial, but in the Panasonic's case, it all works superbly well; once you've set the TV up, you'll rarely find the need to reach for the remote to tweak things any further.

Enough already. You know that we love this TV; you know that it has a brilliant picture. Let's talk examples. Check out the tester's favourite, a high-quality animation like Disney's *Treasure Planet*. The blues of the 'space' backgrounds are simply astonishing, leaping from the screen with a consistency and intensity of colour that astounds: there's no trace of visible noise, no trace of shimmer, and the computer-generated 'ships' appear remarkably three-dimensional in the foreground.

But animation always looks good, you cry. Fair enough. Let's move on to, say, *The Fifth Element*. Cue vivid colours, remarkable black depth, beautifully drawn edges and curves: it's just gorgeous, end of story.

The sound? In truth, no more than fair, but then 'mere' stereo sound seems somehow beneath so majestic a picture. You ought – no, must – use this TV as part of a proper home cinema system. Picture quality this good deserves nothing less.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

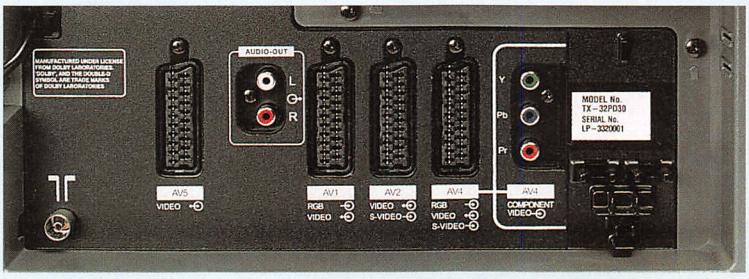
Screen size
32in/76cm flatscreen
Type
100Hz digital scan
Scart inputs
Four, two with RGB
Component inputs
Yes, no audio inputs
Progressive scan
Yes, both NTSC and PAL
Sound
Nicam stereo, Virtual Dolby surround sound

Inputs for virtually every system requirement

PANASONIC HAS THOUGHT long and hard about the socket provision on the TX-32PD30, and in home cinema terms, we've very little to complain about.

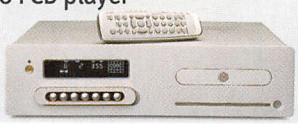
You get four Scart sockets, two of which offer compatibility with RGB video, so you can easily connect in a DVD player and digital TV set-top-box. But if you can, we'd urge you to use (or buy) a DVD player with component video output sockets, and preferably the ability to provide PAL and NTSC progressive scan video. The Panasonic will cope with both signals readily, and it makes a terrific difference to your DVD picture quality.

Any gripes? Just one. If you don't have an external surround system, but want to use component video connections for your DVD player, you'll need to use a Scart cable to send stereo sound from your player into the TV, because oddly it doesn't have phono audio inputs.



TEAC's hot new Legacy 600 series system p12

Tube Technology's intriguing new CD64 CD player p14



Cyberhome's astoundingly cheap DVD p21

Perfect partners

DVD PLAYER

Pioneer DV-565A £250 ★★★★★ Sept 2003

This terrific universal player will spin SACD and DVD-Audio discs to a high standard, and has component video connections to provide optimum picture quality when linked into the Panasonic. It will generate progressive scan video, but only with NTSC DVD discs.

SPEAKER PACKAGE

KEF KHT 2005.2 £800 ★★★★★ Aug 2003

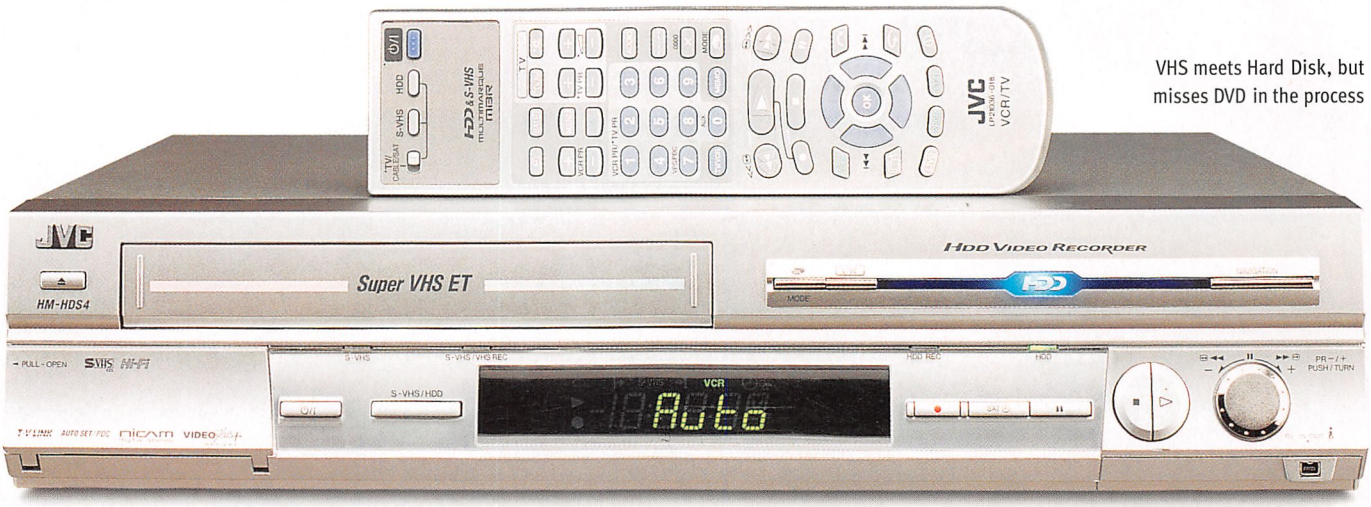
There's no more appealing compact speaker package than this. The excellent KEFs provide terrific surround performance thanks to revised drive units that offer clean, crisp treble and an incisive, detailed midrange. The bass is potent, too.

AV RECEIVER

Pioneer VSX-D812S £330

★★★★★ Oct 2003

An absolute steal of a budget receiver. It works best in 6.1 form, so budget for an extra £100 to buy one more KEF 'egg', to be used as the centre-rear speaker in a full 6.1-channel surround set-up.



VHS meets Hard Disk, but misses DVD in the process

JVC introduces old to new

JVC HM-HDS4
80 Gb HDD/VCR
£700
★★★☆☆

FOR
Excellent replay from VHS and HDD; 80 hours HDD recording; easy to use

AGAINST
No DVD player or recorder; price; suitability

VERDICT
A good choice if you must have a VCR, but a DVD/HDD combo is a better choice

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Recording formats	HDD, S-VHS, S-VHS-ET, VHS
Max recording time	80 hours HDD, 8 hours VHS
Input/Output	scart in/out, phono video in, phono video out, S-video in,s-video out, DV in/out (4-pin.IEEE 1394), S-video
VHS Deck	S-VHS/VHS PAL standard
Dimensions (hxwxd)	98x435x357mm
Weight	5.3kg

IS VHS REPLAY essential to you? If you answer 'yes' then the JVC HM-HDS4 could be the machine for you. Otherwise we reckon you should consider a DVD/Hard Disk recorder instead.

This JVC combines VHS – the format that just won't die – with a hard-disk drive – the format that looks set to inherit the time-shift recording throne. It's an upgrade of the HM-HDS1 and offers improved recording capacity. The 80GB hard-disk drive (HDD) translates to up to 80 hours recording time, though best quality is via SP mode, which allows a more modest 20 hours of recording using a bit rate of 8.6Mbps.

> "VHS – the format that won't die – is combined with HDD, the format set to inherit its crown"

The beauty of the JVC's HDD, in addition to the recording space, is its flexibility. For example, you can record a TV show while watching the playback of another already-recorded programme at the same time. In other words you can watch a recorded episode of *Eastenders*, and at the same record an episode of *Coronation Street*. It's also possible to record to the HDD while watching a videotape.

The Live Memory feature means even less chance of you missing your fave programme. The HDD constantly caches the broadcast you are watching to the hard drive and allows you to pause a live TV show and then resume watching from the point you left. You can also view the recording at 1.5 times the normal speed to catch up to the real-time broadcast schedule (or simply to avoid Denis Norden's 'jokes' during *It'll Be Alright On The Night*).

The VHS duties rely on a Super DA-4 head system and features include BEST (Biconditional Equalised Signal Tracking) picture system, NTSC playback and a choice of SP or LP recording. BEST assesses the condition of the tape and the video heads and automatically makes adjustments to optimise the picture quality. SP offers the best quality replay, but we expect most users to stick to HDD for most recordings and reserve VHS for archive (or old tape/memory-lane) purposes.

The DV input/output is a big attraction for MiniDV video camera users, as it allows the transfer of footage – in its native form – on to hard disk. This approach means you avoid the quality loss usually associated with digital compression. You can then edit multiple MiniDV cassettes and archive to S-VHS or back to the camera.

All in, this machine is to your first VCR what a Ford StreetKa is to a Model-T Ford: much simpler to drive and far slicker round the edges. Replay in VHS and particularly in S-VHS is up there with the best machines we have seen, but – and this is a big but – the picture never challenges DVD replay. The same goes for sound reproduction – you get Nicam stereo but it's no match for the full 5.1 surround sound experience from a DVD video disc.

LEADING RIVALS

Toshiba RD-XS30SB
£699 ★★★★★ Awards 2003
No VCR, but award-winning HDD/DVD-recorder a performance bargain

Panasonic DMR-E50
£400 ★★★★★ Awards 2003
DVD recording only, but good value with excellent performance

We can't fault replay from the HDD though. In its shortest (SP) mode it is remarkably similar to the original TV programme and ideal for recording off-air.

Usability also gets top marks. Initial set up is simple, while the on screen display is clear and the built-in Help function works well. The remote is initially tricky (too many fiddly, small buttons for our liking) but after a while you get the hang of it.

The JVC HM-HDS4 delivers all it promises but our main problem's the price. It may be available for under £600 if you shop around , but £150 buys an excellent VCR, and the rest of your cash can go towards a DVD/Hard Disk recorder. That way you get the superior performance of DVD, HDD recording flexibility, plus a machine for your VHS tape collection.

FORMATS EXPLAINED

Super VHS ET

VHS vs S-VHS vs DVD

There's no doubt S-VHS offers superior performance over VHS, and that's down to the respective resolution figures. The original format provides 250 horizontal lines but S-VHS offers 400. The more lines the better the picture. But for optimum results you need S-VHS video tape with a higher quality magnetic coating than basic versions, enabling the storage of extra information in the same space.

However, the king of horizontal resolution is DVD video, which offers 575 lines, and consequently looks better than S-VHS. It also offers digital audio over S-VHS's analogue efforts so you get better sound, too. This helps explain why DVD is one of the fastest selling home entertainment products of all time.

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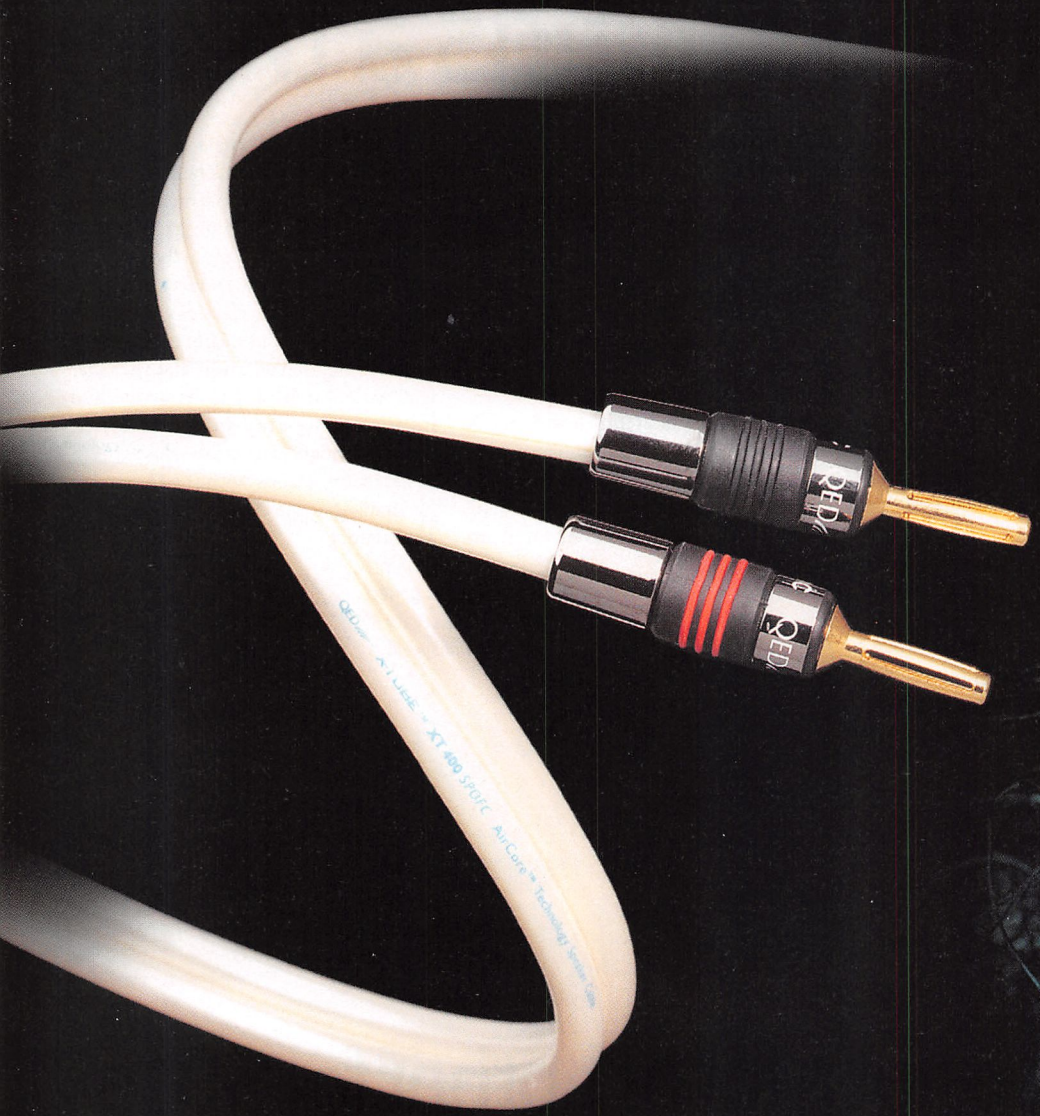
RESOLUTION



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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS SPEAKER CABLES Over £5/m

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 2002-2003 HI-FI CHOICE AWARDS

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

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PURE DESIGN. PURE PERFORMANCE.

TEAC combo sounds a treat

TEAC Legacy 600
Micro system
£330
★★★★★

FOR
Fine detail and musicality; very attractive package

AGAINST
Slight sibilance on radio; overall presentation a little warm

VERDICT
A very accomplished system, and a viable alternative to Denon's all-conquering D-M31, which just edges it on style and balance

IN THE RECENT WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Awards the D-M31 again took top honours, reinforcing Denon's dominance of the micro-system market. But there are alternatives, and this TEAC package, the entry-level model in the company's Legacy series, is one of the very best.

Like the Denon, the TEAC can be bought as a CD receiver for use with your own speakers for £250, or – as here – complete with the matching two-way LS-600U speakers for £330. Yes, these speakers lack the style and pedigree of the Mission-made Denon SC-M51s, but they do the job well enough with the TEAC receiver.

The CR-L600 CD receiver delivers 30W per channel, and includes an FM RDS/AM tuner with 30 presets on each band and automatic tuning, tone and balance controls, an auxiliary line-in and two tape loops, and an optical digital output to feed CD-R/RW or MiniDisc decks. Facilities extend to a sleep timer and a dimmer for the display, and there's also a range of pseudo-surround effects which are probably best avoided. The remote control may not have the style of the rest of the system, but it's certainly comprehensive.

The balance of this system is warm and generous, and while it lacks a little of the detail and sheer exuberance of the Denon, some will prefer its slightly lush, smooth sound. Yes, there's a little sibilance with spoken word radio, but in general terms the TEAC sounds big and involving, as adept when powering out mainstream chart rock and pop music as it is with a large-scale classical work. The kind of levels it can deliver cleanly will be more than sufficient for all but the largest rooms, and while the sound hasn't quite the presence and sense of space the D-M31 can deliver with a concert-hall classical recording, there's good scale and weight provided the speakers are used relatively close to a rear wall. Vocals are clear and attractive, and instruments have realistic timbre, even if their finer nuances tend to be glossed over.

Yes, comparisons with the Denon are inevitable, but the TEAC is far from being an underdog.

LEADING RIVALS

Denon D-M31
£300 ★★★★★ Awards 2003
Crisp, sleek and stylish – that's the sound as well as its looks

Sharp XL-HP700H
£180 ★★★★★ October 2003
Less performance, but it's stylish and fine-sounding none the less

Game, set and perfect match: TEAC Legacy 600 receiver and speakers

Treble trouble not a lot of bother for SB1s

NHT SB1
Speakers
£299
★★★★½

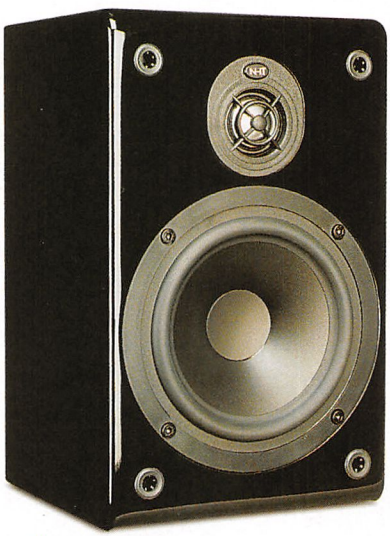
FOR
Timing; good levels of detail; tight, musical bass; finish; compact

AGAINST
Cabinet size limits ultimate bass depth; treble occasionally lacks finesse

VERDICT
Lovely-looking monitor offers a neat solution if you are looking for discreet, yet quality sound

NOW HEAR THIS. Yes, that really is what NHT stands for and it's a bold command for such a little speaker. Fortunately the SB1 has the sonic character to justify its maker's name, but first let's optimise its excitable personality.

Freespace is not the ideal location: to find the perfect spot, place the cabinet flush with the wall and, little by little, move it away. We gained best results at around 15cm distance, but you should experiment to find your set-up's sweet spot. Closer to the wall the speaker gains bass weight but loses definition.



Place NHT's SB1s 15cm from the wall for best results

The SB1's agoraphobia is good news for those searching for a discreet speaker. Available in a gorgeous black or white high-gloss finish, the 17cm-deep cabinet is inconspicuous, and wall mounted – where it should sound better than most rivals – it will go almost unnoticed.

Once you've positioned your SB1s you should give them a good warm-up. This smoothes off – but does not entirely diminish – the occasionally brash treble: spinning Mary J Bilge's *Love & Life* set made higher frequencies stand out. Not a critical problem, but avoid partnering these speakers with bright-sounding electronics.

Otherwise the perky little SB1 is a great listen. Timing is up there with the best at this price and tunes leap along with verve and vitality. With the exception of the slightly forward treble, the aluminium dome tweeter and polypropylene driver integrate well and detail levels are above average – the NHT digs out vocal nuances with proficiency. Bass weight is respectable for the size of speaker and the SB1 keeps a firm grip on lower frequencies. Not even deep hip-hop presents a problem.

It loses a star because of the lack of treble refinement, but overall this is a great, discreet speaker. It sounds fun in stereo guise and should perform well as part of a home cinema set-up, where a subwoofer would add depth to its already tight bass.

LEADING RIVALS

Mission 780
£300 ★★★★★ December 2002
Product of the Year in the Awards 2001 and still sounds fantastic

Quad 11L
£379 ★★★★★ Awards 2003
These Award winners offer stunning performance for the money

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★★★★★

Harman Kardon AVR 8500 & DVD 25
reviewed February 2003 and March 2003 respectively

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Fusion is a great multi-tasker

Tube Technology Fusion CD64
CD player
£1980
★★★★★

FOR
A fluid and unforced presentation, excellent finish, versatility

AGAINST
Add £150 for a decent mains lead

VERDICT
A terrific machine that deserves serious consideration

WE'VE REVIEWED THREE generations of Tube Technology's Fusion CD player and this one is clearly the best. A good thing too, as prices have risen considerably: the last version cost £1350, so the CD64 has to go some to justify itself.

Tube Technology calls the Fusion a tri-mode CD player. That's just a fancy way of saying that this player can function as an integrated machine, transport and stand-alone digital-to-analogue converter. The latter means that owners can plug-in digital sources such as MD and DAB to take advantage of the Fusion's upmarket circuitry. There are BNC and optical digital inputs and outputs, and the Fusion's DAC can be synchronised to an external transport.

That DAC makes the CD64 special: instead of the standard-issue Burr Browns, this player uses Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGA) for number crunching. These chips are programmed with a custom set of instructions that enable them to be used in different roles; the Fusion uses three as digital receiver, DAC and digital filter.

The CD64 delivers sound with an unforced fluidity that makes most rivals sound mechanical. There's plenty of detail, making it easy to follow individual instruments in a complex piece like *The General's Daughter's* soundtrack. Dynamics are expressive, though when used with the standard mains lead the player lacks a bit of punch. Spend another £150 on Tube Technology's bespoke cable and any doubts vanish.

We like this CD player a lot: it looks distinctive and sounds lovely. Make sure you buy that tailor-made lead, though.

LEADING RIVALS

Meridian 5888
£2100 ★★★★★ July 2001
Meridian's top integrated player is built beautifully and sounds great

Copland CDA822
£1598 ★★★★★ March 2003
Our Best Buy in this sector, the CDA822 has superb sonics.

CD64: great but even better with the £150 mains lead

Little and large make a sound investment

Elac Cinema 0.5 ESP
5.1 speaker package
£300
★★★★☆

FOR
Much of the quality of the Cinema One at £100 less; neat design

AGAINST
Can be a little light in the bass by the standards of bigger packages

VERDICT
A sensible exercise in cost cutting, the Elac is lucid, involving and highly competitive at its budget price

A YEAR AGO we enjoyed the Cinema One 5.1-channel system from German company Elac, noting that it provided an attractive sound from what are very tiny speakers – they stand just under 12cm tall – and a matching subwoofer. And this new package, undercutting the Cinema One by £100, uses the same speakers, although the terminals are springclips now, not binding posts. That means they're best used with thinner cable, although the superior terminals are retained on the centre speaker.

The subwoofer has been changed, too, as part of a cost-cutting exercise: the model here uses a 17.5cm driver and a 45W internal amp in place of the 20cm/55W unit in the more expensive system. But the building options are the same: here we're testing a 5.1-channel system, but the Cinema 0.5 ESP can also be bought as 6.1 and 7.1 packages at £350 and £400. Wall-brackets are provided, floorstands are £45.

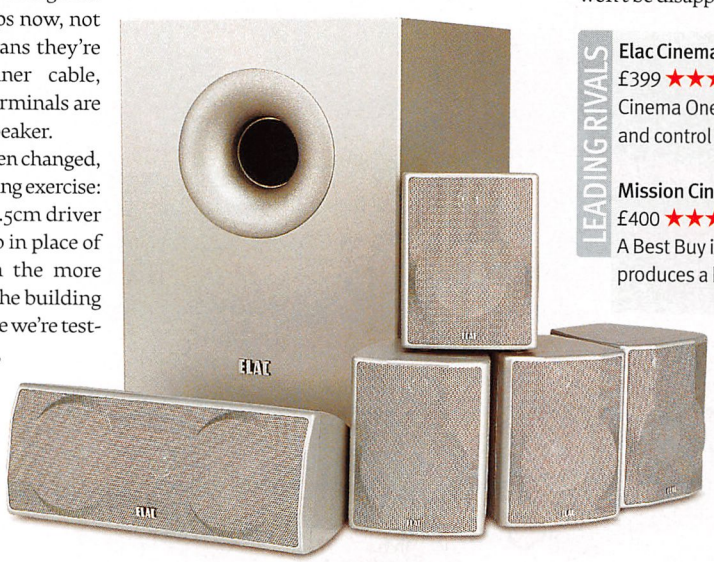
Elac doesn't make its satellites work too hard: their bass rolls off at 100Hz, leaving all the low stuff to the subwoofer, which can only be used with a line input from a suitable AV receiver or processor. And while the attractive and involving presentation we noted in the Cinema One system is still there in the upper frequencies, there are times in movies such as the *Lord of the Rings* series that the subwoofer seems to be working a bit too hard for comfort.

But for all that, the Elac Cinema 0.5 ESP is a good speaker package for the money. Just don't expect too much of it, and you won't be disappointed.

LEADING RIVALS

Elac Cinema One 5.1
£399 ★★★★★ December 2002
Cinema One offers better integration and control for the extra £100

Mission Cinema m72
£400 ★★★★★ Awards 2002
A Best Buy in our 2002 Awards, it produces a big, involving sound



Tiny Cinema 0.5 speakers leave the heavy work to the subwoofer

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Heavenly home cinema

Parasound Halo C2 and A52
Multichannel processor and power amplifier
£5200
★★★★½

FOR
Remarkably flexible, beautifully made and terrific to listen to

AGAINST
Very little, save that you only get five amp channels as standard

VERDICT
Pricey but excellent kit with fine sound and huge appeal

AT THE PINNACLE of multichannel home cinema, the two-box processor and power amplifier combination rules, and it's a niche of the market dominated by some of surround audio's most respected names.

To which we should now add the name of Parasound. With its Halo range, this American company has attempted to shift itself upmarket, and as we said in our August review of the £8500 C1 and A51 combination, it's been successful. The Halo C2 and A52 pairing is simply an attempt to broaden the range's appeal down to more attainable price levels, although five grand is still a lot of cash by anyone's standards.

> "Whatever your action movie poison, the Halos deliver a muscular, cinematic sound"

However, examine the Halo pairing in detail, and you'll find much to justify the outlay. The £3500 C2 processor dispenses with the gorgeous (and costly) LCD screen that adorns its pricier sibling, but otherwise, it's a very similar bit of kit: there's much the same extensive socket fit, comprehensive decoding/processing capability and impressive configuration flexibility.

That's the brain side of things; the brawn is dealt with by the £1700 A52 five channel power amp, which you can read more about in our panel.

So, let's talk sound. Naturally, it's powerful, composed, and utterly unruffled by dynamic peaks; that's the whole point of the exercise, after all. Whatever your action movie poison, the Halos deliver a full, muscular and truly cinematic sound that's always involving, if a little 'warmer' than some European ears might be used to. However, what surprises, and impresses, is the sheer detail the combination can dredge from your soundtracks. The sound can be astonishingly 'real' at times – Ian Holm's voice in *The Fifth Element* sounds almost uncanny.

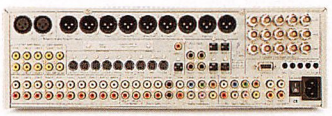
You'll note that the Halo pairing costs much the same as Arcam's AV8 and P7. Which one is better? Hard to say; it's an issue of preference, not performance, like comparing Glenfiddich to Glenmorangie. The only issue we can find fault with is that Arcam gives you seven channels of amplification for your money, while Halo only musters five. Otherwise, consider this Parasound pairing a must-hear.

LEADING RIVALS

Arcam AV8/P7
£5500 ★★★★★ May 2003
Powerful, well-equipped and simply wonderful to listen to

TAG McLaren AV30R/100x5R:10
£6519 ★★★★★ May 2003
Unusual ten-channel power amp is specifically designed for biamping

POWER TRIPPING



Watts in the box

LIKE THE A51 power amplifier, the THX Ultra2 certified A52 features circuit design by John Curl, one of high-end hi-fi's biggest names. It can muster 125W to each of its five channels into 8ohm speakers, rising to 225W per channel (1125W total) into 4ohm loads. You can connect it using either standard phono connectors, or in fully balanced mode, using the XLR-type connectors shown above (on the C2 processor). You can also add an extra stereo power amp for seven-speaker use.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

C2 processor:
Decoding modes
Dolby Digital EX, DTS ES
Processing modes
THX Ultra2, THX Surround EX, Dolby Pro-Logic II
Digital inputs Eight
Preouts
Nine, including both balanced and RCA
A52 power amplifier:
Power
5 x 125W (8ohms)
5 x 225W (4ohms)
Current capacity
30 amperes peak per channel

The muscular Halo combination exudes power and class in equal measure

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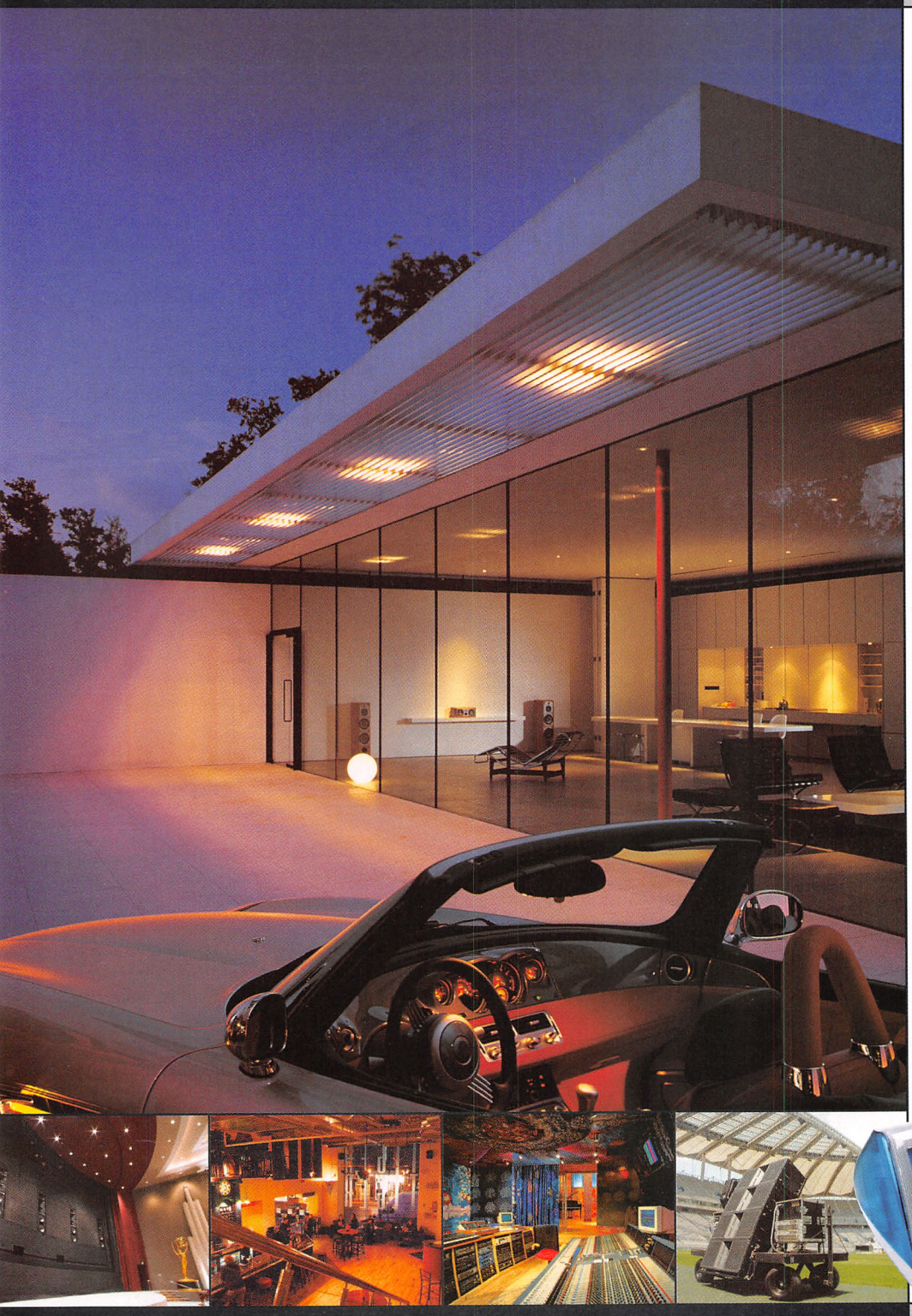
world leaders in sound



You've heard of Harman Kardon but did you know it was part of Harman International Industries, the world's largest group of specialist audio companies? Without realising it, you have probably heard Harman professional sound equipment many times in cinemas, at concerts, in clubs and pubs.

Covering products at every step of the audio chain, the Harman group's passion and expertise in the field is unrivalled: no other company in the world is more dedicated to the creation and faithful reproduction of sound from recording studio to home.

Left to right: Director's Guild of America Theatre, Los Angeles. Tiger Tiger, London. Strongroom Studios, London. World Cup, 2002. Line-fit sound systems for quality automotive and computer system manufacturers.

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BenQ very much for this mini marvel

BenQ Joybee 120
Digital audio player/recorder £95
★★★★★

FOR
Superb performance and features for its small size and price; easy to use

AGAINST
PC only

VERDICT
BenQ's affordable, desirable Joybee 120 is the best ultra-portable MP3 player we've tested to date

ANOTHER MONTH, ANOTHER firm enters the increasingly crowded MP3 player market. But BenQ – an offshoot of Asian computing giant Acer – makes a cracking start by squeezing in with the smallest digital device we've tested.

The Joybee 120 weighs a piddling 24g and measures a mere 5.7x3.8x1.2cm. It comes in sweet-wrapper shades of green and orange, or a simple silver finish. That tiny shiny case houses 128MB of memory – enough for two hours of MP3 or WMA tunes at a decent compression rate – plus an FM radio and a microphone: the BenQ can also be used as a voice recorder, and record its radio reception, too. It also works as a data transfer device – though as with its digital music functionality, this applies to PC users only – and its rechargeable battery runs for up to 16 hours per charge.

The Joybee is simple to use: connect it to a PC's USB port via the cable supplied and it registers as a removable hard disk. It comes with a suite of music recording, editing and transfer software, but it's also easy to drag-and-drop pre-recorded/downloaded files directly into the disk's folders.

Bigger than actual size: Joybee's 120 is a pocket marvel

File transfer is fairly zippy – it supports USB 1.1 – and tracks are easily navigated via the Joybee's intuitive menus.

It's not just features BenQ's crammed in a lot of: the Joybee sounds much better than its size would suggest. There's a warmth and general listenability to its delivery that other ultraportables lack, and even the headphones aren't too ropey – though you'll be better off upgrading to our Award-winning Sennheiser PX100s. FM radio performance is less convincing, but it'd be fine for catching up with the news.

BenQ's Joybee 120 can't match bigger digital devices like the iPod for capacity or sound quality, but it's the best ultra-portable player we've heard – or seen.

LEADING RIVALS

iRiver iFP-390T
£220 ★★★★☆ October 2003
Double the capacity but also twice the size and price of the BenQ

Mpio DMK128
£140 ★★★★☆ August 2003
Another value ultraportable, but this lacks the Joybee's tuner – and style

Sharp's affordable but average widescreen

Sharp 32-JF73H
32in widescreen Nicam stereo television £680
★★★☆☆

FOR
Affordable; safe styling; nice colours and detail

AGAINST
Lacklustre sound; only average picture

VERDICT
Sharp's 32-JF73H is an affordable but ultimately average set that failed to either incite or excite us

THIS IS ONE of Sharp's last 'standard' TV sets – the company has just announced it's leaving the market to spend more time with its LCD and plasma families.

So, has it saved the best until last? Not in terms of looks: the sober silver styling – featuring side-positioned speakers that broaden the 32-JF73H's widescreen appeal – is safe but doesn't stand out in the company of all-too similar TV sets.

Connections include three Scarts with a standard set of AV outputs. And while the on-screen menus won't win any prizes for presentation, they're easy to use through colour-coded buttons from the unremarkable remote.

Performance plusses include well-balanced, natural colours that effectively capture the variety of shades that form the picturesque landscape in *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* without confusion or blocking. There's a fair level of detail, too.

The JF73H lacks the definition that separate the best sets from the rest. Images look sedated by comparison: the Sharp is missing the superior contrast levels that create another dimension to images. Sonically, there are more drawbacks, with a detectable level of sibilance present even at low levels. And at high volumes low frequencies have a habit of dropping off while the sound is harsh at the top end.

The 32-JF73H is an acceptable, affordable set, but Sharp has left the CRT TV market with a whimper not a bang.

Unremarkable looks and sound from Sharp's 32incher

LEADING RIVALS

Panasonic TX-28PS1
£500 ★★★★★ Awards 2003
The 32in version of this cracking Award-winner costs around £700

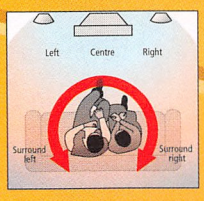
JVC AV-28T25S
£550 ★★★★★ July 2003
Another superb set that outshines the Sharp – 32in version costs £750

Home cinema from two speakers

The *New* Bose 3·2·1 digital home entertainment system

'Home cinema just got a whole lot easier.'
Stuff Magazine.

Bass module not shown



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KHT 5005

hear it and be there

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Flanked by a pair of 75mm long throw bass drivers with ultra-low distortion motor systems, the Uni-Q® array has KEF's 15mm metal dome HF driver at the acoustic centre of the 75mm midrange cone to disperse a seamless sonic image evenly throughout the listening area. And what an image it is - richly textured and spatially precise in every dimension.

Combine these with the sensational elliptical PSW 2500 subwoofer, a closed box design with a 250mm long-throw cone that pumps out a genuine 250 watts of distortion-free bass, and whether you're watching a film or chilling out to a few tracks, they sound as clean as they look.

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Cyberhome's £50 DVD belter

Cyberhome CH 400
DVD player
£50
★★★★☆

FOR
Compact styling; affordable; reasonable performance

AGAINST
Performance limitations you'd expect at this price

VERDICT
Best £50 DVD player we've seen: ideal for use as a second player

WE'RE NOT SHORT of budget DVD players this month and here's one more that snuck in a little too late to be included in our 12-player *Supertest* (see p36).

The first thing that strikes you about the Cyberhome 400 is its compact size, and at only £50 there's a price tag in proportion. So is it the ideal option as a secondary player for a small room?

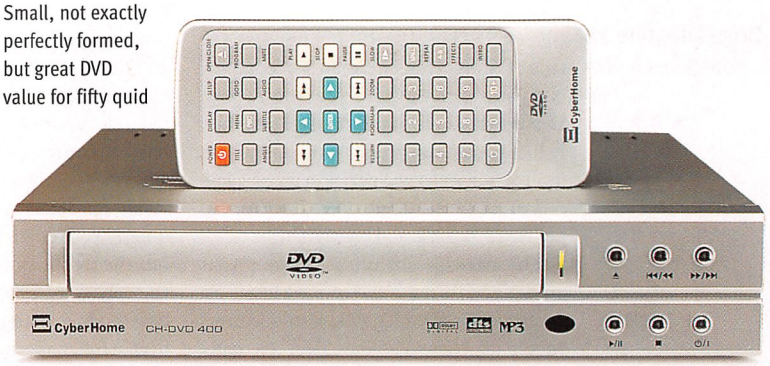
Given the price, the quality of both build and performance says it is. The safe silver styling is neatly finished and uncluttered by the usual over-design that often afflicts cut-price products, while the smooth mechanism is clunk free.

The equally diminutive remote may be overcrowded, but it's surprisingly easy to use and even comes with glow-in-the-dark keys. The remote only works with tiny CR2025 calculator batteries, though.

As you might expect, there are few connections: a single RGB Scart, standard AV outputs and a coaxial digital output for increased audio potential. And the set up is just as basic, with a limited selection of standard video and audio adjustments – including a range of ineffectual sound effect presets – that are straightforward and simple to follow.

As well as offering a cut-price DVD solution, the CH 400 is also compatible with CD, VCD and MP3 encoded discs. Obviously at this budget level, corners have been cut that affect the level of performance, but even in comparison with some more expensive budget models this little player makes a big impression. Unlike many of its rivals, the CH 400 produces images that are well balanced, natural and relatively free of the dreaded digital noise. On the downside, edges are universally soft, especially in scenes with a lot of detail. But as far as watching a film from bed or giving your kids their own player is concerned, this Cyberhome is a more than acceptable solution – especially considering the modest cost.

The price plays a big part in our rating of the CH 400. In pure performance terms we'd advise spending a little more on a class leading £100 player like Toshiba's SD 330E. But as a secondary player this Cyberhome model represents great value for money, with a picture that easily outperforms its peers at the same price.



Small, not exactly perfectly formed, but great DVD value for fifty quid

LEADING RIVALS

Toshiba SD-330E
£100 ★★★★★ Awards 2003
Award winner is sensational value – shop around and you'll get it for £80

Bush DVD2035
£70 ★★★☆☆ November 2003
Competent for second-player use, but blown away by the CH400

Home cinema in a box? Jamo be there

Jamo DVR50/ A325PDD
Home cinema in a box
£699
★★★★☆

FOR
Style and performance: good with music and movies

AGAINST
Not without competition in the home cinema-in-a-box market

VERDICT
There are plenty of systems like this on the market, but few with the minimalist style, or the performance, of this Jamo package

SO JAMO IS just a speaker company? Wrong – this set-up is based on the company's A3 speakers, designed by the Danish all-female Smedegaard and Weis design team, and the DVR50 DVD receiver can be bought with one of three A3 packages, ranging from £599 to £799 all-in.

The midrange system on test here uses four A325 speakers, an A3CEN.5 centre and the A3SUB.5 active subwoofer. The speakers use inverted dome tweeters and a 10cm mid/bass unit, with twin units in the centre speaker and a 20cm driver and a passive radiator in the sub, driven by a 100W internal amp. All of them – including the sub – can be used free-standing or wall-mounted; stands cost £79 a pair.

The DVR50 incorporates an RDS FM/AM tuner and 5x50W digital amplification, offering both progressive scan and RGB Scart output, optical and electrical digital inputs, three line-ins and a single tape output. It'll also play DiVX discs made on a home computer.

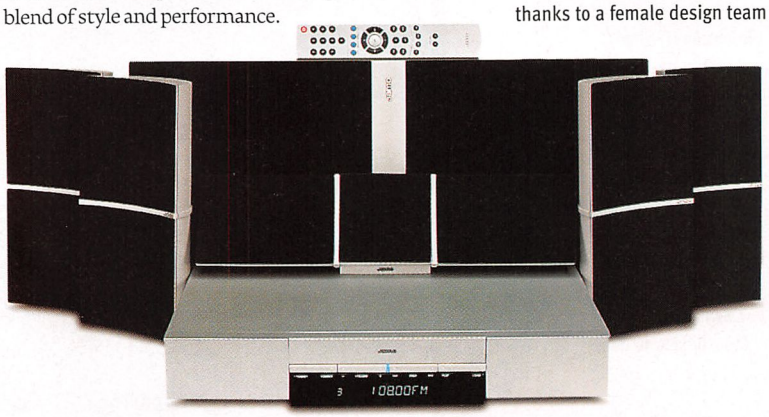
Most people are going to use it to play commercial CDs and DVDs, and this package does both well. Picture quality is very good, making the most of the busy visuals of the *Lord of the Rings* movies, thanks to subtle colour rendition and fine sharpness, while the receiver and speakers crash out the soundtrack in impressive style. CDs playback also pleases, with a combination of balance and power that's good for a system of this kind.

The Jamo is well worth auditioning: it's not the very best home cinema in a box we've seen at this price, but it offers a great blend of style and performance.

LEADING RIVALS

Pioneer DV-464-S/VSX-C301-S /Elac Cinema One 5.1
£120/£250/£399 ★★★★★
October 2003/December 2002
One of the best separates set-ups

Sony DAV-S550
£600 ★★★★★ April 2003
Few left, but still a great package



Great sounds, and great looks thanks to a female design team

Bose's style premium

Bose Lifestyle 18
Home cinema in a box
£1900
★★★☆☆

FOR
Excellent picture; slick styling; easy of use; multi-room option

AGAINST
You must pay an extra £300 to optimise the sound; sounds a touch safe; cheaper rivals

VERDICT
Offers a great picture but this performance – if not style – is available for less money

BEYOND THE STARS. It's not just the title of Martin Sheen's 1989 space movie, but also a wise way to look at this review. Despite the three-star rating, we genuinely like Bose's Lifestyle 18: you can buy its level of home cinema performance for less money, but it may appeal if you're happy to pay extra for style and convenience.

The package includes a poster that guides you through the connections – an excellent idea of which rival manufacturers should take note. There are five "Virtually Invisible" speakers, the Media Centre and the Acoustimass module. This translates to five 7.6cm high satellite speakers – not invisible, but certainly discreet – plus a DVD/CD player and AM/FM tuner, and lastly a subwoofer with internal amp.

The Acoustimass sounds best with the twin drivers pointing away from the wall and the satellites should be at ear level. Bose says its technology enables the centre satellite to sit on the floor, but we'd advise you to place it higher up.

Display connection choices comprise S-Video, composite or component video adapter – but there's no Scart. The adapter offers the best picture performance.

Normally at this stage of a review we cover balancing the speakers – but not with the Lifestyle 18. The system confirms you have connected the speakers in the correct order, but there is no test tone option. If you want to optimise sound performance you must part with a further £300 and buy Bose's ADAPTiQ system (see panel). This isn't ideal.

Nevertheless, we spin some discs and the Bose's picture swiftly improves our moods. Movement is smooth and detail levels are excellent. The player executes skin tones especially well and faces carry an enjoyable realism. In fact we have no complaints about the image, but we are less enthusiastic about the sound.

There's decent midrange detail and even quietly spoken dialogue is easy to follow, but the treble sounds a touch curtailed – this robs delivery of some excitement. The bass module produces a decent thump, but to gain full marks we would like it to sound more taut, as extra control would boost both film and music replay. As it stands, CD replay is decent but not up there with a dedicated stereo system.

However, in its favour, the Lifestyle 18 offers multi-room capability. You can buy an extra pair of powered Bose speakers for £300 and listen to the tuner in one room and the CD player in another. Once more, convenience at a cost.

LEADING RIVALS

TEAC Legacy 800/LS-800
£1100 ★★★★★ Awards 2003
Our Award-winning home cinema in a box combines style and substance

Pioneer DV-565A/Pioneer VSX-D812/KEF KHT2005.2
£1380 ★★★★★ Sept/Oct 2003
An awesome separates alternative

But if you don't mind paying the presentation premium, your extra pounds buy a smart system and a smart picture. If Bose could throw in the ADAPTiQ for free, tweak the sound, and knock a few quid off the price, the Lifestyle 18 could be on course for a more stellar success.

SETTING IT UP

Bose's ADAPTiQ system

THE SYSTEM ADJUSTS the audio settings to your particular habitat – taking into account factors such your room furnishings. A hard room (one that includes a bare floor and little furniture) can cause treble problems and a warm room (with thick carpets and lots of soft furnishings) tends to cause bass issues. You insert the CD, stick on a pair of special headphones and select up to five likely seating positions. The whole process takes around 10 minutes.

This all sounds intriguing but our problem is the cost. Here's a tip, though: Bose dealers will rent the system to you for a week – you give them £300 and they return £250. Better, but not free.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Operating system
DVD-video, CD, CD-R/RW and MP3 on CD

Inputs
4 analogue input
4 coaxial digital
1 optical digital
1 composite video
1 S-Video

Outputs
1 composite video
1 S-Video
1 optical digital
1 coaxial digital
1 analogue out

Dimensions (wxhxd)
Each cube speaker: 7.9x7.9x10.2cm
Media centre: 40.1x8.9x11.0cm
Acoustimass module: 20.3x40.6x62.2

Weight
Each cube speaker: 0.5kg
Media centre: 3.7kg
Acoustimass module: 16.3kg

Bose says those tiny satellite speakers can sit anywhere – but they sound best at ear level

Innovative amplification is packed into a superslim case

Slim pickings from Panasonic

Panasonic SA-XR15
AV receiver £230
★★★☆☆

FOR
Slimline style; good radio tuner; interesting techonology

AGAINST
Lacklustre sound; no DVD-A/SACD support

VERDICT
Stylishand innovative, but can't match top slim or regular rivals

PANASONIC'S ENTRY-LEVEL slimline receiver – designed to partner the company's similarly skinny DVD players, like the DVD-S35EBS – is just 52cm tall, but crams in five amp channels (each capable of 35W), along with Dolby Digital/Pro-Logic II and DTS processing, a 30-preset FM RDS/AM tuner.

Three line-ins and a tape loop are provided, along with composite video switching, and there are two optical digital inputs and one electrical, plus a preout to feed an active subwoofer. Completing the package are a comprehensive if not always intuitive remote control, speaker terminals on binding posts for the front left and right speakers and springclips for the rest, and a headphone socket. What you don't get is any provision for multichannel audio from DVD-A/SACD players or any on-screen menus to aid set-up – in fact dialling in speaker levels and distances requires the use of both front-panel and remote control buttons, which is a little awkward.

There's nothing fundamentally wrong with the Panasonic, and used at low levels it's almost quite attractive, but it lacks the grunt and dynamics to make movies exciting even at modest volume settings, while the way in which effects are steered to the various speakers is rather vague. Action movies sound flaccid and lacking in conviction, while dialogue and effects clarity on more subtle material leaves something to be desired, too. With music in stereo, too, the Panasonic will be shown the door by even entry-level two-channel amps.

The SA-XR15 could compete against a relatively modest home-cinema-in-a box system, but when you consider another £300 or more will be needed for suitable speakers, after which you'll still have to buy a DVD player, this receiver doesn't really stack up, either on price or performance.

LEADING RIVALS

Pioneer VSX-C301-S
£250 ★★★★★ October 2003
A much more convincing slimline receiver for around the same money

Yamaha RX-V440RDS
£300 ★★★★★ October 2003
Bulkier and pricier, but the money's well spent on this terrific receiver

Active ATCs are honestly fantastic speakers

ATC Active 20
Active speakers
£2695
★★★★★

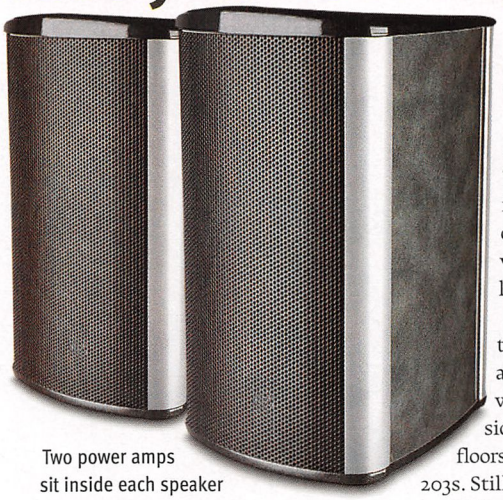
FOR
A stunning blend of insight, dynamics and timing; solid build

AGAINST
Active operation means there's less scope for system development

VERDICT
The Active 20s are top class active speakers that rival many pricier conventional combinations for outright ability

THESE ATCS ARE no ordinary speakers. Each distinctively styled rock-solid cabinet houses a power amp – sorry, make that two: a 200watt unit for the mid/bass driver and a 50-watt amplifier for the tweeter. The advantages of active configuration are plentiful. There's no passive crossover to spoil signal purity and the amplifier works directly into the drive unit rather than through metres of cables. Points against include low perceived value – after all, you don't see the power amps – and the fact that the user can't play around with different power amp options.

However, take a serious listen to these 47cm tall speakers and messing about with the system will be the last thing on your mind. These ATCs dig extremely deep into a recordings and pull out low-level subtleties dangerously close to the level of our reference £18,000 Krell FPB400cx/PMC IB2s power amp /speaker combo. It doesn't matter what kind of music you play, the Active 20s will deliver it with class-leading honesty and insight. They can unravel the complex weave of Massive Attack's *100th Window* better than any rival we've tested.



Two power amps sit inside each speaker

However, don't think these speakers are all about analysis. The thing that makes them great is that they can assemble all the detail into a cohesive, convincing whole. Dynamics are also excellent as is stereo imaging.

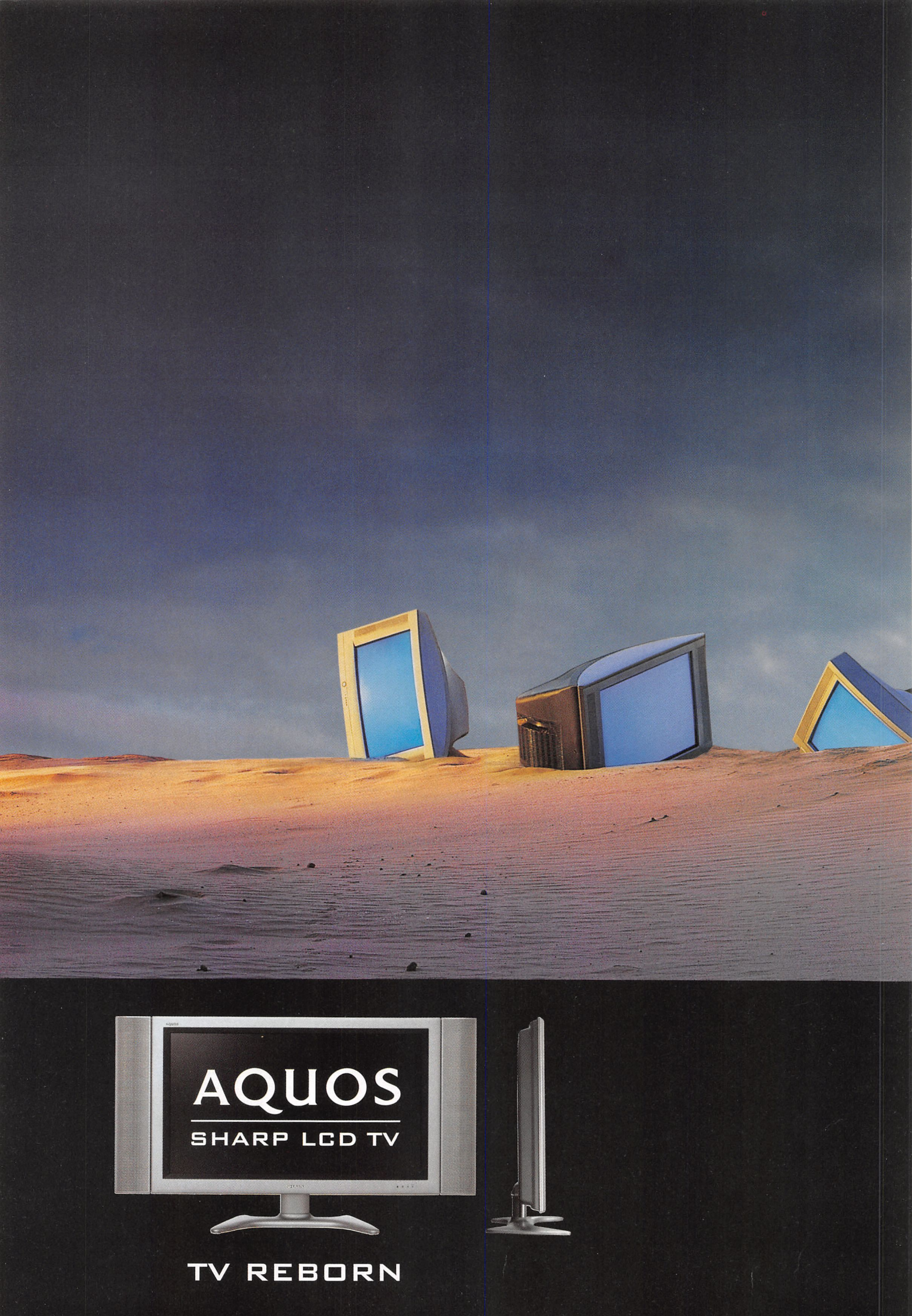
You've just got to remember that with 250 watts per side, these are still mid-sized monitors, which means ultimate bass extension won't worry similarly priced floorstanders such as KEF's Reference 203s. Still, the ATCs' breathtaking speed and definition in those low frequencies are adequate compensations, and they deliver low bass with more authority than any other compact rival we can think of. Only obsessive bassheads will be disappointed.

If you want to hear exactly what's on your CDs, these ATCs are a great buy. They won't make a bad recording sound good but that's not their fault – these are honest speakers and we love them for that.

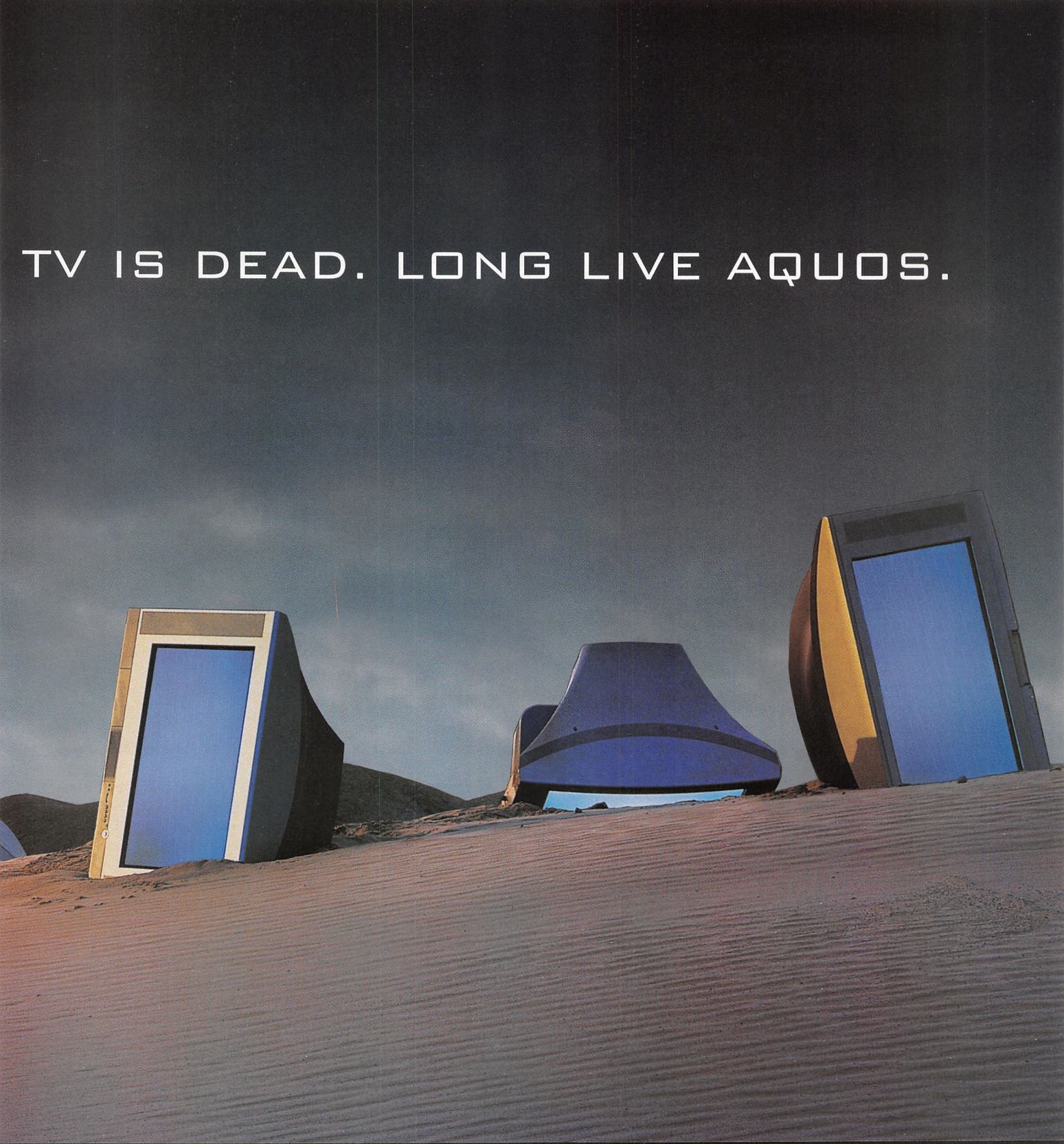
LEADING RIVALS

ATC SCM 12/ Cyrus Mono X
£1000/£2400
★★★★★ Awards 03 /Aug 03
A superb amp/speaker combo, but the Active 20s are better value

Harbeth Super HL5/ Quad 909
£1999/£900 ★★★★★ May 03/Nov 02
Another impressive combination


AQUOS
SHARP LCD TV
TV REBORN

TV IS DEAD. LONG LIVE AQUOS.



AQUOS FROM SHARP. WORLD LEADERS IN LCD TECHNOLOGY.

THIS IS TV REBORN. THE NEW AQUOS 37INCH WIDESCREEN WITH ITS BEAUTIFUL SLIMLINE DESIGN MEANS THAT TV WILL NO LONGER BE A BOX IN THE CORNER, BUT CAN BE PLACED ALMOST ANYWHERE, EVEN ON THE WALL.* AND WHEREVER YOU ARE, THE FUTURE OF TELEVISION WILL ALWAYS BE CLEAR, BECAUSE ITS UNIQUE ASV (ADVANCED SUPER VIEW) SCREEN TECHNOLOGY DELIVERS 170 DEGREE VIEWING ANGLES. THE NEW AQUOS RANGE, DELIVERING STUNNING TELEVISION PICTURES NOT JUST FOR TOMORROW, BUT THANKS TO ITS LONG LIFE BACKLIGHT, FOR UP TO THE NEXT 20 YEARS, WHEN VIEWED 8 HOURS A DAY. AQUOS – LOOK INTO THE FUTURE OF TELEVISION TODAY. WWW.AQUOS.CO.UK OR 0800 138 8882

SHARP

..... be sharp

*ADDITIONAL WALL BRACKET REQUIRED.

Cyrus steals the show

Cyruslink wireless multiroom hi-fi range leads a raft of key launches at the What Hi-fi? Sound and Vision show

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION SHOW 2003
OLYMPIA HILTON LONDON
26-28 SEPTEMBER 2003

Toshiba's sub £1k projector (top); thousands enjoyed product launches

CYRUS STOLE THE WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION show with the launch of Cyruslink, a multiroom hard disk server system that's due on sale now. Cyruslink will beam music wirelessly around your home and is controlled by a touch-screen remote.

At the heart of the system is the Linkserver, a high performance multi-room enabled hard disk server. This upgradable unit offers sufficient storage capacity for around 400 CDs, or 4000 discs using MP3 compression, and draws on the company's QDAC technology to optimise sound quality.

The Linkserver can be integrated with Cyrus's existing range of stereo and AV units and can be used to play music out into a number of zones. Two versions of the unit, one with a 160 GB drive costing £3000 and a £5000 unit with a massive 250 GB drive, are available. Music is played back remotely via client units called Linkports, costing £650 each, which can be connected to the main server wirelessly over IEEE 802.11 networks or via a cabled Ethernet link.

Cyrus Linkwand software can be used to control the whole system – it's compatible with the latest generation of Windows CE PDAs and webpads and costs £200.

Toshiba previewed its latest LCD and plasma TVs at the show, plus its first sub-£1000 LCD projector. The company also revealed its new entry-level DVD recorder: the DR-1, with DVD-R/RW/RAM recording formats, is expected to cost around £400.

Some of the biggest queues of the weekend were outside the Bose room. The company was running an AV demo and showing its new 3-2-1GS DVD system, which create surround sound from just two speakers. The £1000 system comprises a DVD/CD player with AM/FM tuner, two front speakers designed to deliver a broad and spacious sound, and a subwoofer.

NAD distributor Lenbrook launched the PSB Platinum range of loudspeakers, featuring the T8 and T6 floorstanders, C4 and C2 centres, an M2 bookshelf speaker, the SS10 subwoofer and S2 biwirable dipole rear speakers.

The latest addition to Arcam's DiVA range, the £700 DV78 DVD player, was also on show. Claiming to have all the video performance of the DV88 Plus at a more affordable price, the new player supports both interlaced and progressive video outputs including PAL progressive scan. Attention has also been paid to CD performance via the analogue outputs to please audiophiles.

Speaker manufacturers enjoyed much attention with Acoustic Energy, Wilson Benesch and Spendor launching new ranges.

Gadget lovers were also in heaven with plenty of intriguing products available to buy. One of the cleverest was the Clear FM indoor aerial – claimed to perform almost as well as an outdoor antenna, it's neatly disguised in an A4 picture frame!

Sony drew plenty of crowds with its massive display, which included its cracking range of LCD and plasma TVs, plus its latest home cinema in a box solutions.

Jamo displayed its first plasma TV and a new home cinema system. The DVR50/A325 (see *First Tests*) wowed the crowds with its punchy sound and sleek styling by a team of female consultants.

One of the highlights of the show was the new Cyruslink – the latest multiroom hi-fi system

Deal of the month

Onkyo is offering a bargain bundle deal on its sleek CR-305TX CD/receiver system. The £225 unit – which won a favourable four-star rating in September as the £300 CS-210 micro system with compact speakers – is now available as a package (pictured) with Jamo's £259 E800 bookshelf speakers for just £299 – saving £185.

New-look Zen takes on the iPod

AS WE PREVIEWED in August's digital music feature, Creative has cut the size – and relative price – of its MP3 jukeboxes and players to take on the double threat of Apple's iPods and cut-price ultraportables from iRiver, BenQ and others.

Going up against the iPod is the new Zen NX jukebox. Slimmer than the original Zen (though still slightly larger than the Apple), the NX model offers a whopping 30GB of storage – enough for 8000 songs – for just £250. It also supports the latest, fastest USB 2.0 file transfer standard and has a host of new features, including a sleep/wake-up timer. We'll be testing the Zen NX next month.

Also getting the NX treatment is Creative's MuVo ultraportable. The updated, 128MB player now features a blue, backlit LCD display together with scroller wheel to aid track navigation. An integrated microphone means the MuVo NX can also be used as a voice recorder, while its new M-Port compatibility means it can be hooked up to compatible Creative speakers using just the USB port.

Out of the revamped range, the new kid on the block is the stylish MuVo² (£200). This pocket-sized unit is packed with a 1.5GB micro disk, which has the capacity for 850 WMA or 425 MP3 tracks. It also features a four-band equaliser and a backlit LCD display, while the accompanying rechargeable lithium-ion battery will provide up to 10 hours of on-the-move listening.

All three products are PC-only and come bundled with Creative's new MediaSource software for file conversion, editing and transfer.

Naim draws on reference kit for '5' line

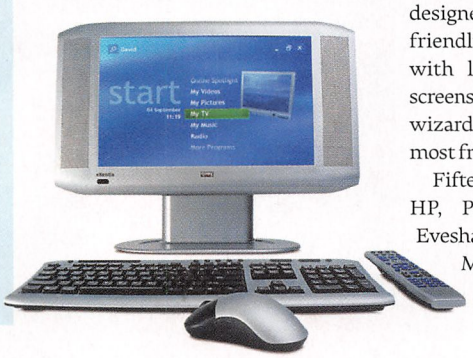
BRITISH HIGH-END hi-fi specialist Naim is edging closer to the mass market with its latest CD player. The £825 CD5i is based on Naim's reference CD players, using the drawer and transport suspension from the CDX2, and the replay and control software from the CDS3. Unusually for Naim, the CD5i will feature phono as well as DIN sockets.

Naim is also launching the £699 5i integrated amplifier, which offers 50Watts per channel continuous output, with peaks into 1ohm of almost 500Watts.

The PC that thinks it's a TV

A NEW BREED of PCs that can be controlled via remote control handset has arrived, boasting a range of features that its supporters hope will see your computer rather than your TV becoming the centre of your home entertainment system.

The PCs run the new Media Center 2004 version of Microsoft's Windows XP operating system. This software provides an interface to core features including analogue or digital TV, a PVR (personal video recorder), DVD player, digital music jukebox and a photo management system – plus standard computing functions and options like a digital radio tuner.



Media Center PCs have also been designed to be more living-room friendly. For example, most come with large widescreen LCD flat screens and there's a video calibration wizard to ensure you're getting the most from your picture.

Fifteen PC companies – including HP, Packard Bell, Elonex and Evesham – have already announced Media Center PCs, priced from £1000-£2500, with big names like Dell to follow shortly.

This just in...

FREEVIEW GROWS TO 2.1M

New research shows 45 percent of UK homes now have access to multichannel TV services via Freeview, satellite or cable with Freeview gaining a place in 2.1m households since its launch a year ago. In a separate move, Sky has dropped the £10/month subscription charge for users of its Sky+ satellite receiver/hard-disk recorder who sign up for more than one of its premium movie or sports channels.

EPSON ADDS TO PROJECTORS

Epson's expanded its range of dedicated home cinema projectors with two new LCD models – the £999 entry-level EMP-TW100 and the progressive-scan enabled EMP-TW200 (£2199). Both are out now.

PURE'S NEW DAB RADIO ALARM

Pure Digital has launched an alarm clock version of its popular Evoke digital radio. The Tempus 1 offers the DAB benefits of the Evoke 1 including easy tuning, crackle free reception and exclusive DAB stations, but adds sophisticated but simple to use alarms, touch sensitive Snoozehandle, backlit night time clock display and a timed record function.

SHARP TO GO FLATSCREEN ONLY

Sharp has revealed it will withdraw from the traditional CRT TV market by 2005 to concentrate on LCD TV production. It predicts more than half of all TVs will be flat panel by 2007, possibly including go-anywhere wireless technology as found in its new 15in £1400 LC-15L1E (right).

WORTH A LOOK *www.cable-shop.co.uk* – recently redesigned site stocking a wide range of hi-fi and AV interconnects

New gear

KEF aims to follow the success of its Product of the Year-winning KHT2005.2 speaker package with the KHT5005 setup. The cast aluminium column speakers feature two 75mm long-throw bass drivers and KEF's Uni-Q mid/high-frequency driver arrangement. The £1200 package will be available in early November.

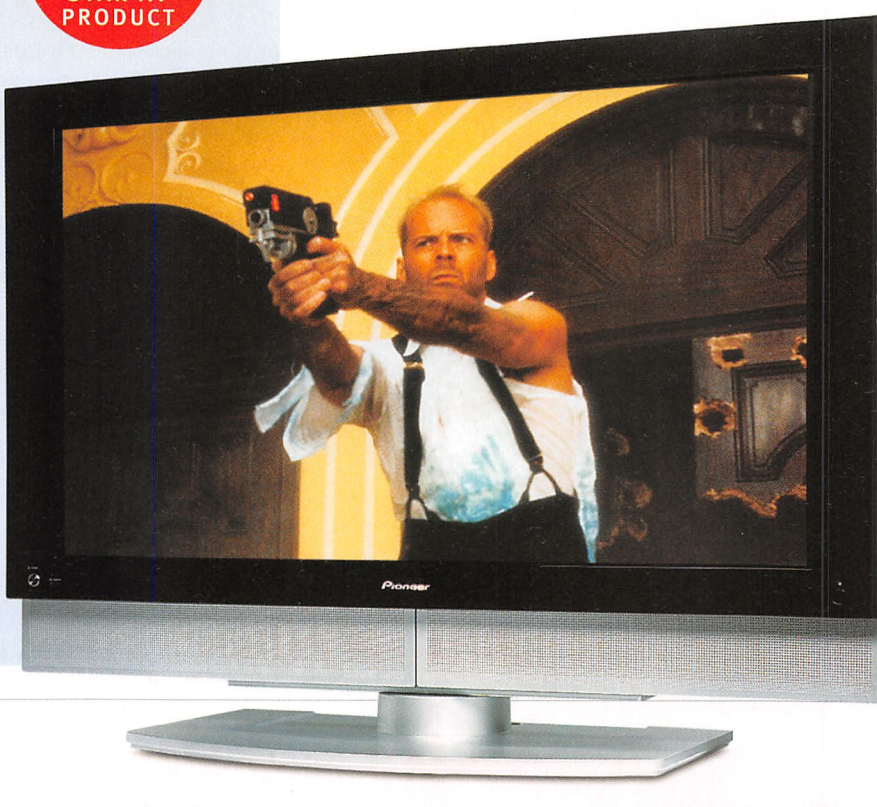
Denon has announced the launch of its second universal player, the DVD-1400. Featuring 24-bit 192-KHz DVD-Audio and SACD playback, as well as 12-bit 54MHz video DACs, the '1400 will be available from October for around £400. Its slim case will be available with a silver or black aluminium fascia.

Sennheiser has launched three new headphone designs. The range-topping HD 650 (pictured) will be available in November for £300. The PXC 250 'phones feature NoiseGard background noise reduction, and are available now for £90. Also new on sale are Sennheiser's first neckband headphones – the PMX 60 – at £30.

STAR AV PRODUCT

Pioneer promises high definition plasma TV

AFTER A MOUTH-WATERING sneak peek in our October issue, we've been awaiting the launch of Pioneer's new range of plasma televisions with some anticipation. Available in 43- and 50in screen sizes, the PDP-434HDE and PDP-503HDE are radically improved when compared to the company's outgoing models. As before, they include external tuner boxes with all the usual input sockets you'd expect, including PAL progressive scan component video sockets - but that's not the really big news. Both plasmas include the performance-enhancing benefit of the High Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI), a digital video transfer system that looks set to transform the picture performance you can expect from DVD. Available soon on two new Pioneer DVD players – one costing £600, the other £1000 – HDMI is going to be the big news in video for years to come, and these two plasmas are the first on the market that are suitably equipped to cope. Look out for our First Test of the new PDP-434HDE in our next issue, out 19th November.



STAR HI-FI PRODUCT

G-Force Hi-Fi

MERIDIAN AUDIO HAS announced its first major product launch for a decade. Drawing on the technology of its flagship Reference 800 line, the G Series consists of new disc-spinners, stereo and multichannel power amps, preamps, a two-channel receiver and a surround processor with built-in tuner. The new line also features RS-232 ports for complete configuration via Meridian's proprietary PC software.

The G91 DVD Audio Player Controller, pictured, comprises an audio and video disc player, a stereo digital preamp and an AM/FM tuner, at a cost of £3895. With the addition of a pair of Meridian's Digital Loudspeakers, the G91 becomes a complete two-channel system. All models are available now.

Projector specialist SIM2 is adding to its Grand Cinema range. Its new flagship HT 300 LINK costs £12,000 and features a second- generation DigiOptic Image Processor (DOIP). The Italian company says this allows quality connections to video sources up to 1600 feet away. As the convergence of home media continues – from lighting to security to video – Sim2 believes connectivity is the key. Consequently the HT300 LINK incorporates rates digital optic fibre, High Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI), and the option to include IEEE 1394 (Firewire).

A classic '80s integrated amplifier, the IncaTech Claymore, has been revived by new hi-fi brand Inca Design and redesigned using state-of-the-art technology . The new Claymore will cost around £995. The Inca Design range – available by the end of October – also includes the Katana CD player (pictured) at £695, an SACD version of the Katana, and several other amplifiers.

Hauppauge's MediaMVP (Music, Video, Pictures) is a new set-top decoder that acts as a bridge between your home network and hi-fi or TV, taking the digital media from PCs and converting it into an analogue signal. Unlike similar products, the MediaMVP will play MPEG-1 and 2 (DVD) video thanks to its high-speed ethernet connection, as well as digital pictures and MP3 music files.

Test CDs: November

The music we used to make this month's systems work harder

Mary J Blige

Love & Life | Geffen

LOVE & LIFE kicks off with dutiful subjects Jay Z (that's zee not zed) and Sean Combs (that's Diddy not Daddy) hailing the "queen of hip-hop soul". Unfortunately, for the remainder of this set Queen Mary does her best to abdicate. Her voice occasionally soars, but tunes lack drive and, most surprisingly, production sounds a touch harsh.

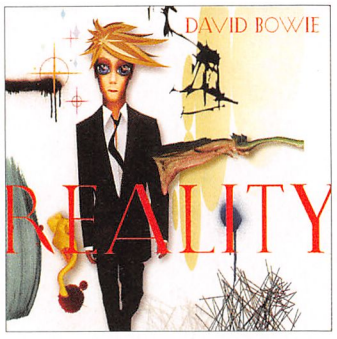
MOST TESTING TRACK

Love @ 1st Sight – featuring Method Man

WHY? If this track sounds dull and inoffensive, your kit is not revealing the true recording. If the handclaps make your ears beg you to do a Van Gogh and release them from the flinch-inducing treble, then it's on the right tracks. Add a layer of paper cut-sharp backing vocals and you have a high frequency internal examination.

David Bowie

Reality | ISO/Columbia



COME ON NOW Mr Bowie, it's time for your pills. And, no, not *those* pills. But the 56 year-old icon refuses to put his expensively clad feet up. Last year's *Heathen* was his best since *Scary Monster* days and *Reality* goes one better. Naturally, for a multi-millionaire rocker, production is top-notch and there's a lavish gathering of musicians to test your hi-fi kit.

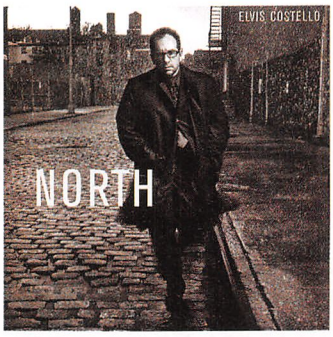
MOST TESTING TRACK

The Loneliest Guy

WHY? Only a man who could make falling down stairs look cool could get away with the line "pictures on my hard drive" (especially at his age). But Great Uncle Digital manages, and this delicate track is a neat test of subtlety. Listen to the piano and gauge how realistic it sounds, and note Bowie's lyrics for heart-rending emotion.

Elvis Costello

North | Deutsche Grammophon



NOT TO BE confused with the lip-curling, erratic dancing lead singer of The Attractions, today's Elvis Costello is more vintage Bordeaux than Beaujolais Nouveau. If you are looking for a disc to "make your kit sound good" then here it is. As lovingly put together as the 48-piece ensemble, this unhurried album sounds rich and lush. Makes a great vocal tester.

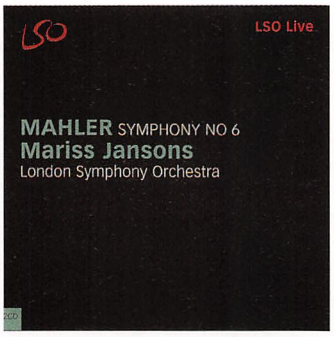
MOST TESTING TRACK

Fallen

WHY? As with the bulk of this set, the Clark Kent of the music world leaves piano duties to Steve Nieve and concentrates on superhuman vocals. Our caped arranger also sorts the strings and the result is a test as subtle as a funeral director. Costello's voice should lilt delicately and the double bass should sound deep and musical.

Mahler Symphony No 6

Mariss Jansons and London Symphony Orchestra | LSO



LIVE RECORDINGS MAKE excellent testers, so titles from LSO's live collection are always a safe bet. This double-disc set was recorded last November at the LSO's Barbican residence, with the indefatigable Tony Faulkner at the sound desk, and it makes a magnificent test of dynamics. It sounds painfully claustrophobic on a system with a narrow range.

MOST TESTING TRACK

CD2 Sostenuto - Allegro energico

WHY? Before he lost faith in titles, Mahler considered naming his sixth symphony *The Tragic* – it would have been an apt choice. Top-performing systems pick out the nuances and inflections that help paint a picture of hopelessness and pessimism. And the dynamic change of pace about 22 minutes into it thrills the listener.

Ennio Morricone Remixes Volume 1

Various | Compost Records

RIGHT THEN, LET'S take a big helping of Mr Morricone's spaghetti western scores and mix in a spicy dollop of remix sauce. On paper, the recipe looks somewhat harebrained and destined for the waste disposal unit. Happily, on CD, the resulting sonic dish sounds fantastic and we have been feasting on this tester since the microwave went 'ping'.

MOST TESTING TRACK

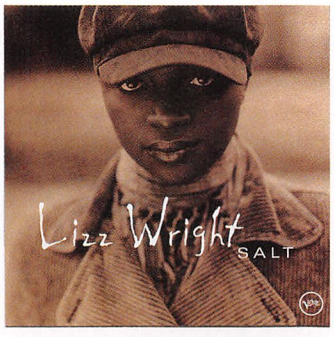
Swell Session

Il Buono, Il Brutto, Il Cattivo

WHY? Here's a super-swift tester. That atmospheric whistle will have you swaggering like Clint Eastwood – but only if timing is spot on – and your kit must keep pace with the complex beats to present the tune's infectious enthusiasm. Quickly separates good systems from the bad and the ugly.

Lizz Wright

Salt | Verve Records



NOT THE MUSIC for sufferers of narcolepsy but Lizz Wright's deep voice is well worth staying awake for. She's only 23 years-of-age but her vocals – perfected from several years of singing in a gospel church – sound full of authority. This is no system-thrashing CD, but if you enjoy a filling helping of velvety tunes then *Salt* is the ideal accompaniment.

MOST TESTING TRACK

Silence

WHY? It's a simple song – just Lizz plus a couple of guitarists – but it's a complex tester. Can your kit pick out the guitarist's fingers moving up and down the acoustic's strings and can it do justice to the deep sounding bottle-neck? Once your system has handled the instruments, it must serve up the vocals with realism and emotion.

The internationally acclaimed 8 series from Cyrus delivers stunning pictures and audiophile sound. Our elegant, hand-finished units and range of equipment racks complement the most style-conscious loft or traditional country home, concealing wires and clutter. Carefully planned upgrade options maximise your initial investment, even many years later.

Audition our exciting new 6, 8 and X series components (including the new DAC X decoder) and Cyruslink – the next generation of wireless home audio networking systems – at your local Cyrus dealership.

Further details are available on our website.

Cyrus 8 – **"A massive sonic step forward over its predecessor and most of the competition."** - *What Hi Fi Sound and Vision* (Apr 03) ***** Group Test Winner

CD6 – **"The pinnacle of £600 CD replay."** - *What Hi Fi Sound and Vision* (Sept 03) ***** Group Test Winner

CD8 – **"Class leading levels of detail."** - *What Hi Fi Sound and Vision* (Sep 03) *****

Pre X / – Mono X **"Worthy of true audiophile status....highly musical and satisfying performance."** – Hi Fi Plus (issue 25, Aug 03)

CYRUS

Advanced Audio and Video Systems

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High flying Kiwis land in Kingston

We help a couple of NZ hi-fi fans track down an ideal system among the streets of Kingston town

OUR REGULAR *READER Rescue* goes like this. We sift through your letters and choose a victim, sorry winner – based on level of need and likely tea and biscuit provision. We then arrive, with a load of kit, at said reader's home.

It's great fun but it's not the real world. In truth, buying new hi-fi or home cinema kit requires plenty of planning and bags of stamina. Not all shops stock every manufacturer's products and some retailers concentrate solely on a single brand. Not easy.

So for this Rescue we take a Kiwi couple under our big old *What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision* wing and hold their hands on a quest for a hi-fi. The streets of Kingston (unfortunately London, not Jamaica) are our hosts.

So what brought our pair to the UK? "It's the law." explains Sam Moore. Sounds severe – until he explains he and his wife-to-be Andrea Wilson are both lawyers. But they're fast approaching the end of their UK secondments. They enjoy England's capital city but, back home, they are looking forward to buying a home with more than one door...

But they won't be going back empty handed. Consumer electronics are much cheaper here, plus they can reclaim the VAT, and Sam has identified a loophole in New Zealand's import laws that may save him even more dollars. So it's time to invest.

Currently they own a Denon D-M30 hi-fi system and a Sony DAV-S550 looks after home cinema duties. But this budget is going solely towards hi-fi, and kit flexiblity is key. Sam and Andrea share eclectic musical tastes and, as yet, they don't know which house the kit will live in. But, in keeping with most New Zealand homes, it will probably be large with lots of wood. Can Kingston deliver the goods?

Sevenoaks Sound and Vision

43 Fife Road, Kingston KT1 1SF

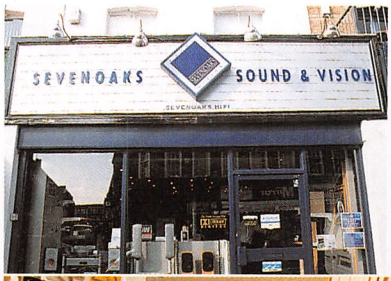
THE SHOP'S MANAGER, Chris, immediately apologises: "the hi-fi demo room's due for a re-fit." It looks fine to us – it's a decent size with a comfy couch – and it's one of two (the other's for home cinema). Good start.

Chris checks the couple's budget, musical tastes and the type of room the hi-fi will live in. Sam and Andrea explain their predicament and the need for flexibility. Chris quickly offers a neat suggestion. "Don't buy expensive interconnects and speaker cable until you're back in New Zealand," he says, " then you can fine tune to the room's acoustics."This impresses our shoppers and they visibly relax.

The suggested kit is based on the flexibility of the Cyrus electronics and the pair's preference for the Ruarks over the Monitor Audio Silver S8s and Quad's 22L floorstanders. Sam really likes the idea of adding a Cyrus PSX-R or SmartPower at a later stage.

WHAT THEY AUDITIONED

Cyrus 8 integrated amplifier £800
Cyrus 8 CD player £1000 & PSX-R £350
Ruark Prologue II speakers £1250



"Sam really likes the idea of adding an extra power supply at a later date"

Bang & Olufsen

31a Fife Road, Kingston KT1 1SF

"He latches onto Sam's interest in multi-room hi-fi: BeoLink can connect rooms"

WOW. THIS STORE could double as a designer clothes boutique. Sam worries this visit could intimidate, but our B&O man Richard is very hospitable.

There is a dedicated listening room with scope for hi-fi and TV testing, but the main shop floor is where the couple listen to the two-channel range.

Richard explains that with these Danish products the couple are paying for style in addition to sound, but he is confident the sound will impress. His initial discussions concern the couple's budget and he latches onto Sam's interest in multi-room capability – BeoLink connects rooms and offers outdoor speakers.

Sam and Andrea are able to load their own CDs and Richard clearly explains the systems. Some of the styling is not to their tastes but the Beo Sound 3000 paired with BeoLab 8000 loudspeakers hit the mark. We grab a chunky brochure and head off.

WHAT THEY AUDITIONED

Beo Sound music system £1250
BeoLab 8000 loudspeakers £2450
Beo4 remote control £150

John Lewis

Wood Street, Kingston KT1 1TE

THE LAST STOP is John Lewis and we're in the safe hands of another Chris. He is younger than Mr Sevenoaks, but still knows his stuff.

He's also totally up front and suggests Sam and Andrea may be better off elsewhere. Chris explains John Lewis has jumped firmly aboard the home cinema and multimedia train. Their most expensive two channel hi-fi system retails for £700 and this store no longer stocks separates.

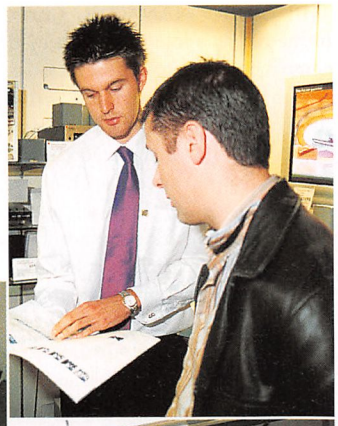
But, using the couple's CDs plus some movie clips, he manfully demonstrates the Bose Lifestyle 28. Other shoppers come and go while we are in the listening room, but next year the store plans to open an upgraded demo facility plus a dedicated Apple multimedia test room.

In the meantime the Bose interests Sam and Andrea, and Chris's encyclopaedic knowledge of all things Bose impresses us all. Does he ever sleep?

WHAT THEY AUDITIONED

Bose Lifestyle 28 £2500

"The store is on the home cinema bandwagon – it no longer sells hi-fi separates"



What did they choose?

OUR FINAL VISIT list comprised three electronics shops, one coffee shop and one sandwich shop. The message is, allow plenty time to shop around.

But both Sam and Andrea feel they understand more. "I'd never even heard a system costing four grand before, so that was great," says Sam. Another welcome feature was the absence of sexism. "The shop people talked to me as well as Sam, which is not always the case," Andrea explains.

So which shop best met their needs? John Lewis didn't stock the kit they are looking for but the salesperson didn't try and shoehorn them into another purchase. In fact if they didn't already own their Sony, they'd consider the Bose system.

Our trip to hi-fi chic also went well. Sam and Andrea didn't

"I'd never even heard a system costing four grand before, so that was a great experience"

warm to all the Bang & Olufsen styling but were happy at the lack of snobbery. But Sam admits, "I don't really care how it looks, it's how it sounds that counts."

The couple's winning vote goes to Sevenoaks' Kingston branch. The dedicated listening room and choice of hi-fi kit impressed our couple, as did Chris's enthusiasm for the subject. And the upgradability of Cyrus was a big hit. Sevenoaks also boosted its mark by discussing accessories and producing a form to reclaim the VAT. Clever.

The final kit selection was the Ruark Prologue IIs plus the amp and CD player from Cyrus's 8 series. A Cyrus PSX-R may also be added and when it came to choice of finish the Kiwis chose the Cyrus all blacks. Naturally.

Sam and Andrea get the kit – and VAT paperwork – they want

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Dirty Dozen?

Cheap can be cheerful if it's a DVD player

WITH PRICES FALLING faster than premiership strikers in the penalty box, DVD players have never been cheaper. If you're still suffering the shortcomings of video, or even considering a second player for the bedroom, these 12 sub-£100 players offer an inexpensive entry into the digital video world.

But with so much emphasis on price, are manufacturers sacrificing performance in favour of profit margins? Well, if you're searching for your first DVD player, both picture and sound quality will be more impressive than anything your about-to-be-obsolete VCR has mustered recently – even at this price. And budget players are no longer masses of mock metal that should be ashamedly hidden in the depths of your video cabinet. Most feature slimline silver styling that belies their modest price tags. There have also been giant strides in the range of features available at this price including full connectivity, integrated sound processing and even PAL progressive scan for less than £60.

However, cost-cutting does trim performance, and although all of these players represent great value for money only a few can boast the ability to match.

So, which gets our money? Allow us to separate the top scorers from the Sunday-league scuffers.

We tested each system with:

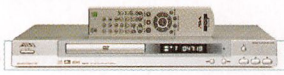
Reference system

PROJECTOR Yamaha DPX-1000 £8000
SCREEN Stewart Electrimask £6000
PROCESSOR Lexicon MC-12B £9000
AMPLIFIER Lexicon Lx-7 £5750
SPEAKERS M&K MPS-150 and SS-150 £5600
SUBWOOFERS M&K S-350THX £4000
CABLES Chord Company

Price compatible system

TELEVISION Panasonic TX-32PD30 £1400

What we tested

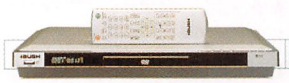
Aiwa XD-AX10 £100

p38

Alba DVD45 £40

p38

Arianet PDVD-2277 £86

p39

Bush DVD2035 £70

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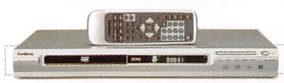
Cyberhome CH-DVD505 £100

p41

Dual DVD858 £55

p41

Goodmans GDVD141 £70

p43

Pacific DVD 1001 £38

p43

Roadstar DVD 2200K £100

p45

Samsung DVD-E234 £100

p45

Sanyo DVD-SL22 £100

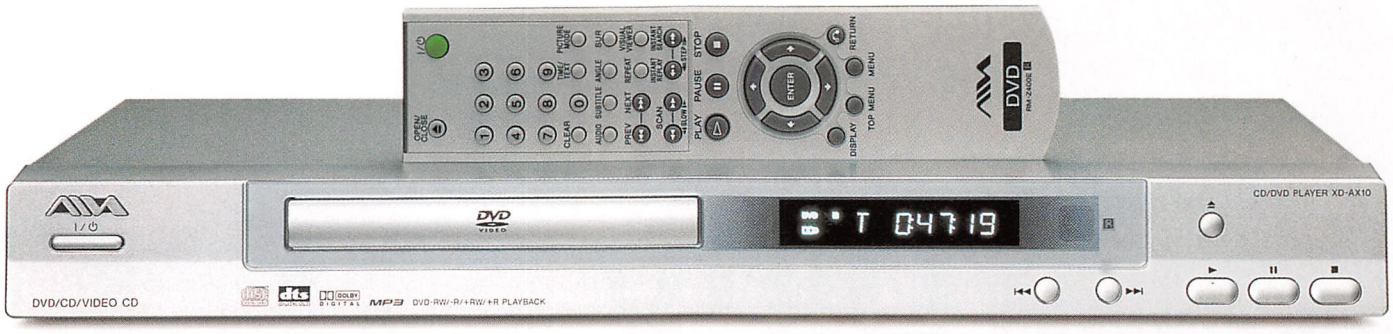
p47

Toshiba SD330E £100

p47

Plus

We recommend the best systems for our winning DVD player
page 62



Aiwa XD-AX10

★★★★☆ £100

FOR

Solid design; natural colours; dynamic sound

AGAINST

Performance can't quite equal the class leader at this price

VERDICT

A good all rounder and a podium place behind the best in class

IN A TEST marred by mediocrity, the Aiwa XD-AX10 is one of the few acceptable ambassadors for the budget DVD player market.

Although it shares the same pseudo-silver styling of its peers, there's an improvement in build quality that's reflected in neat design touches, plus a smooth-operating mechanism that's unusual in DVD players at this level.

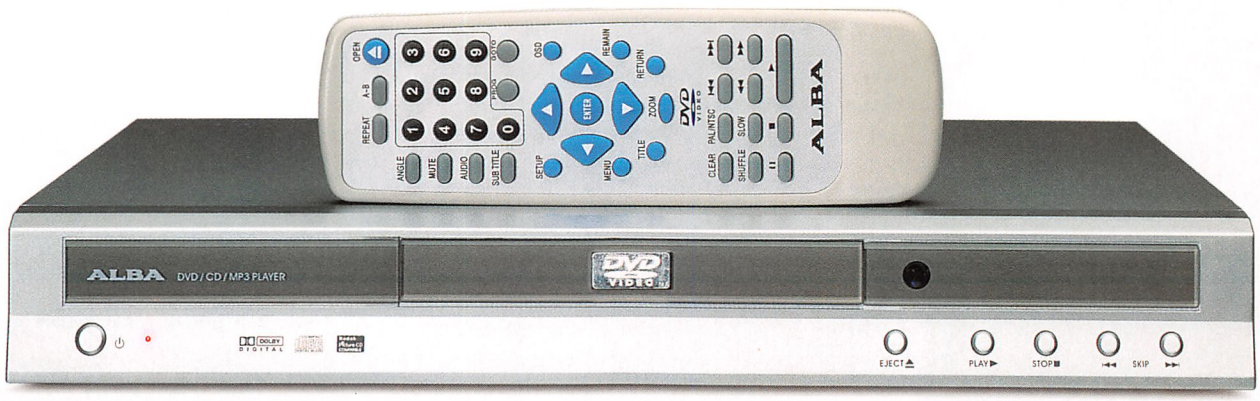
DVD first-timers will benefit from an excellent Quick Start function that effortlessly guides you through a series of graphical installation options. And while connections are limited – you get a single Scart and coaxial digital output – at this price it's unlikely you'll make use of any more.

> "The AX10 is one of the few players that renders colours naturally without shades becoming confused"

The AX10 is one of the few players that's able to render colours naturally without shades becoming confused or smearing when active. There's also enough detail to recognise the subtle changes in facial expressions and digital noise has been reduced.

It's a success in sonic terms, too. Superior dynamics dramatise the difference between heavy and subtle sounds: the boom of thunder followed by gentle rainfall that precedes the Battle of Helm's Deep in *The Two Towers* is a good example. And, unlike other models, CD performance is reasonable, at least by the standards of this class.

Aiwa's AX10 is an impressive all rounder and only really suffers when compared to the class leader.



Alba DVD 45

★★☆☆☆ £40

FOR

Competitive price

AGAINST

Poor construction; 'green' images; one-dimensional sound

VERDICT

The Alba DVD 45 is a cost-effective player but otherwise ineffective

THE PRICE OF the Alba DVD 45 may attract your attention, but the level of performance is proof that you often only get what you pay for.

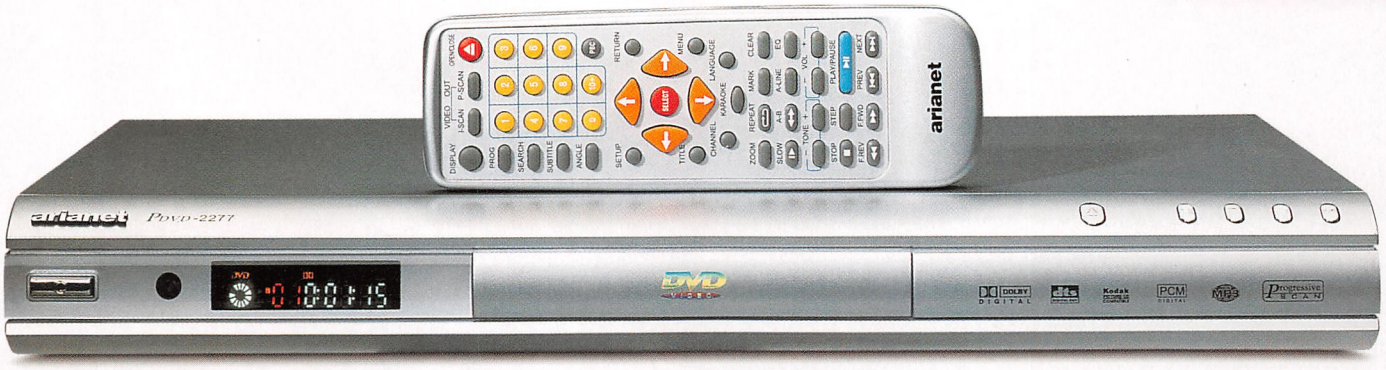
The regulation silver styling fails to disguise the player's cut-price construction, with little attention to detail and the omission of a front display panel leaving it looking about as aspirational as an '80s mobile phone. The remote is equally unattractive, but the oversized cursor controls make steering through the limited set-up menus simple enough. Rear connections are simple, too: a single RGB Scart, standard AV outputs and a coaxial digital output for connection to a processor or receiver.

> "Images are tainted by an overriding green tinge – a problem that affects a few of the cheaper models in this test"

For the price the structural shortcomings could be ignored if performance prevailed, but the Alba DVD 45 disappoints in both sound and picture quality. Images are tainted by an overriding green tinge – a problem that affects several of the cheaper models in this test. Colours have been boosted to compensate for poor contrast levels, but the end result is so unnatural, images appear animated. There's also a degree of digital noise, especially in dark sequences, while the sound lacks the dynamics necessary to create an involving experience.

Perhaps at this price we shouldn't expect anything more, and first-time users will still be pleased with the improvement over VHS. But if any more corners had been cut the DVD 45 would be circular.

RATINGS ★★★★★ The best on the market | ★★★★★ Excellent | ★★★★☆ Very good | ★★★☆☆ Average | ★★☆☆☆ Below par | ★☆☆☆☆ Don't bother



Arianet PDVD-2277

★★★☆☆ £70

FOR

PAL progressive scan support; good selection of connectivity options

AGAINST

Poor colour balance; sound lacks detail

VERDICT

A case of great on paper, bad in action for the Arianet – it offers superb specs, but poor performance

THE ARIANET PDVD-2277 is the only player in the test that can boast true PAL progressive scan, previously unheard of at this price point. However, to use this advanced picture technology, you'll need a display capable of accepting the signal – and at the budget level these are few.

But that's only part of an exhaustive specification list. The PDVD-2277 is better connected than a mob boss, with a comprehensive collection that includes a full suite of video outputs, both optical and coaxial audio outputs and a set of 5.1 preouts. With the extra features comes a more convoluted set-up procedure that can involve individual speaker settings and an extensive array of adjustments that can be daunting for a beginner.

> "Enabling progressive scan improves detail by deepening blacks and adding contrast, but it makes colours look unnatural"

Enabling progressive scan mode provides more detail by deepening blacks and adding contrast, but unbalances colours, which leaves the picture looking unnatural. Back in RGB mode, poor edge-definition means the player struggles to contain even more unruly colours, creating soft boundaries and a lot of fizzing lines.

The sound livens up the experience with a forceful rendition suited to high-energy scores – but it's ultimately brash and misses the subtleties that create a film's ambience. Similarly, music playback lacks detail and only suits energetic tracks.

Despite impressive specifications, in action, the Arianet PDVD-2277 can't equal the class leaders.

Bush DVD 2035

★★★☆☆ £70

FOR

Appealing and practical design; adequate sound and picture performance

AGAINST

Fails to excite in any area

VERDICT

This Bush is reasonably priced, but its performance is only competent

BUSH, GOODMANS AND Alba are stablemates that share the same UK distributor, and while none of their players in this test are particularly impressive, the Bush DVD 2035 is the pick of a poor lot.

The super-slim chassis, mirrored front panel and controls positioned on top of the player make the Bush one of the better-looking models here, with definite hints of Panasonic. The remote also combines flair with functionality, incorporating glow-in-the-dark buttons.

A first look at the player's features excited us, thanks to the inclusion of component connections, but they're not for UK use and you'll have to make do with basic AV sockets. The set-up menus are also common to several players tested, clearly using the same transport and operation software. And that's a fair description of the player's performance. The 2035 is afflicted by the same limitations that affect most budget players in this test: poor contrast levels and digital interference still apply, but not to the extent that they disrupt viewing. Colours are well balanced and able to portray natural tones alongside special effects in films such as *The Fifth Element*.

> "Colours are well balanced, but the picture performance never manages to exceed average"

But the Bush DVD 2035's picture performance never manages to exceed average – and that's also true of the sound performance. Good timing and efficient steering make for easy listening, but it lacks the authority to turn heads.

For full specifications of every product tested go to page 48

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Cyberhome CHDVD 505

★★★★☆ £100

FOR

Comprehensive connections; cohesive sound; solid pictures

AGAINST

Bulky, dated design; dark contrast levels hide image detail

VERDICT

A real dark horse from Cyberhome, which surprised us with its level of performance

WITH DIMENSIONS resembling an old-school VCR, the Cyberhome CHDVD 505 dwarfs the other slimline models in this test. And it's the only player to shun ubiquitous silver styling in favour of a glossy black finish.

And this is another model loaded with facilities rarely found at this price point. Connections include component outputs, which aren't progressive scan-enabled but do offer higher picture quality, along with practically every other AV connection going. The on-screen displays won't win any prizes for beauty, but are simply navigated from the stocky remote control. The RGB picture is striking, with rich, fluid colours and exemplary black depth that gives images solidity. This works well with animated films such as *The Jungle Book* sequel, but switch to reality and the dark blacks have difficulty differentiating between shades, leaving shadows blocky and detail hidden. Using the component connections reveals some of that lost detail at the expense of the vibrant colour.

> "The on-screen displays won't win any prizes for beauty, but are simply navigated from the remote"

Cohesive panning between the speakers suggests the digital feed here is good, but, like its peers, this player is more adept with films than music.

For a picture that outperforms most rivals, the Cyberhome CHDVD 505 merits its lofty rating and proves big-name brands shouldn't always be the automatic choice of budget shoppers.

Dual DVD 858

★★☆☆☆ £55

FOR

Price; connectivity options

AGAINST

Badly built; inconsistent colours; sounds terrible

VERDICT

This Dual is the most competent of the super-cheap models in this test

FROM A DISTANCE, Dual's DVD 858 looks like a player out of proportion with its meagre price tag. But look beyond the mirrored styling and you'll find a poorly constructed player with loose, unresponsive controls and a stiff mechanism that's serenaded by a chorus of clunks while playing.

Similarly, the tall, slender remote control flatters to deceive, but poor arrangement makes it difficult to find buttons and slows down an otherwise straightforward set-up process. When it comes to connections, surprisingly there's a choice of both coaxial and optical digital outputs to join a standard set of AV outputs with a single RGB Scart.

> "The tall, slender remote flatters to deceive, but poor arrangement makes it difficult to find buttons"

The Dual's picture suffers from over-emphasised colours, dismal contrast levels and streaky motion rendering. Adjustments to the colour balance fail to find a point between bleached and psychedelic but at least there's no green hue flooding the screen. But there is a wave of white interference that floods the screen when detailed background shots arrive.

If this is your first venture into DVD, you'll still be impressed by the gains over VHS, and all for a very affordable price. We wouldn't advise ditching your CD player though, as its sound performance is dire.

Of the lower-priced models in this test the Dual DVD 858 is possibly lord of these particular flies, but doubling your outlay will more than triple the performance.

RATINGS ★★★★★ The best on the market ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Average ★★☆☆☆ Below par ★☆☆☆☆ Don't bother

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Rotel RA-1062
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Goodmans GDVD 141

★★☆☆☆ £70

FOR

Still better than your old VCR

AGAINST

Basic specifications for the cost; images soaked in green; listless sound performance

VERDICT

This Goodmans is disappointing – unless you're watching *The Hulk*

AS WE'VE MENTIONED, a common flaw separating the poor from the average players in this test is a recurring green tint in colours – even blacks – that swathes the picture in a verdant mist. Goodmans' GDVD 141 is also afflicted.

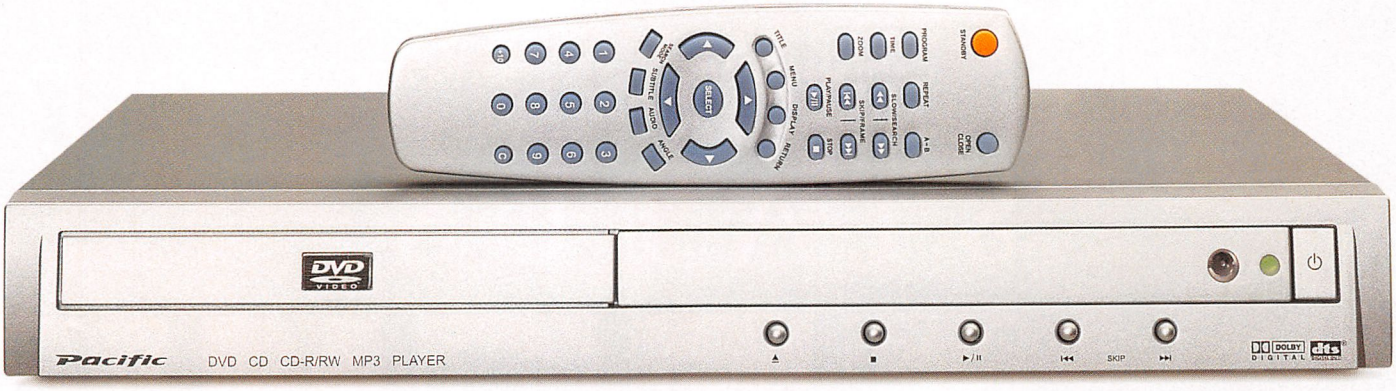
The slim, silver, reflective design mirrors the styling of the majority of players here. And the remote control looks familiar – it's obviously cheaply manufactured but at least the oversized buttons make navigation through the limited set-up options simple. There's a bare minimum set of socketry to contend with, of which an RGB Scart connection and coaxial output are your most likely ports of call.

> "Green seems to bleed into all images, leaving an unbalanced monotonal hue across everything"

However, it would take more than improved connections to enhance the poor picture quality on offer. Once again chaotic colour balance is at the root of all problems: like its relation from Alba, greens seem to bleed into all images, leaving an unbalanced monotonal hue across everything. Soft detail and recurring digital artefacts fail to compensate for the colours.

Neither is the sound good enough to save this player from a below average rating. There's very little energy conveyed in film scores, which sound subdued, while CD playback is painted with a broad brush whatever music you choose.

The GDVD 141 is a disappointing player: it struggles in most areas and deserves no special recommendation.



Pacific DVD 1001

★☆☆☆☆ £38

FOR

It's the cheapest player in this test

AGAINST

Everything else

VERDICT

The Pacific may be cheap, but it left us far from cheerful

AT LESS THAN the price of a DVD box set, the Pacific DVD 1001 is the cheapest player in the test, but given its capabilities you may prefer just watching the box set's packaging.

Describing the design as bland would be a compliment: the ultra-basic styling is a display-less mass of plastic with only a smattering of stubborn controls to define it as a DVD player. And the cost cutting doesn't stop there: not only are there no batteries supplied for the flimsy remote, but there aren't even any standard connection leads supplied. Socketry is just as spartan, with only a basic set of AV outputs.

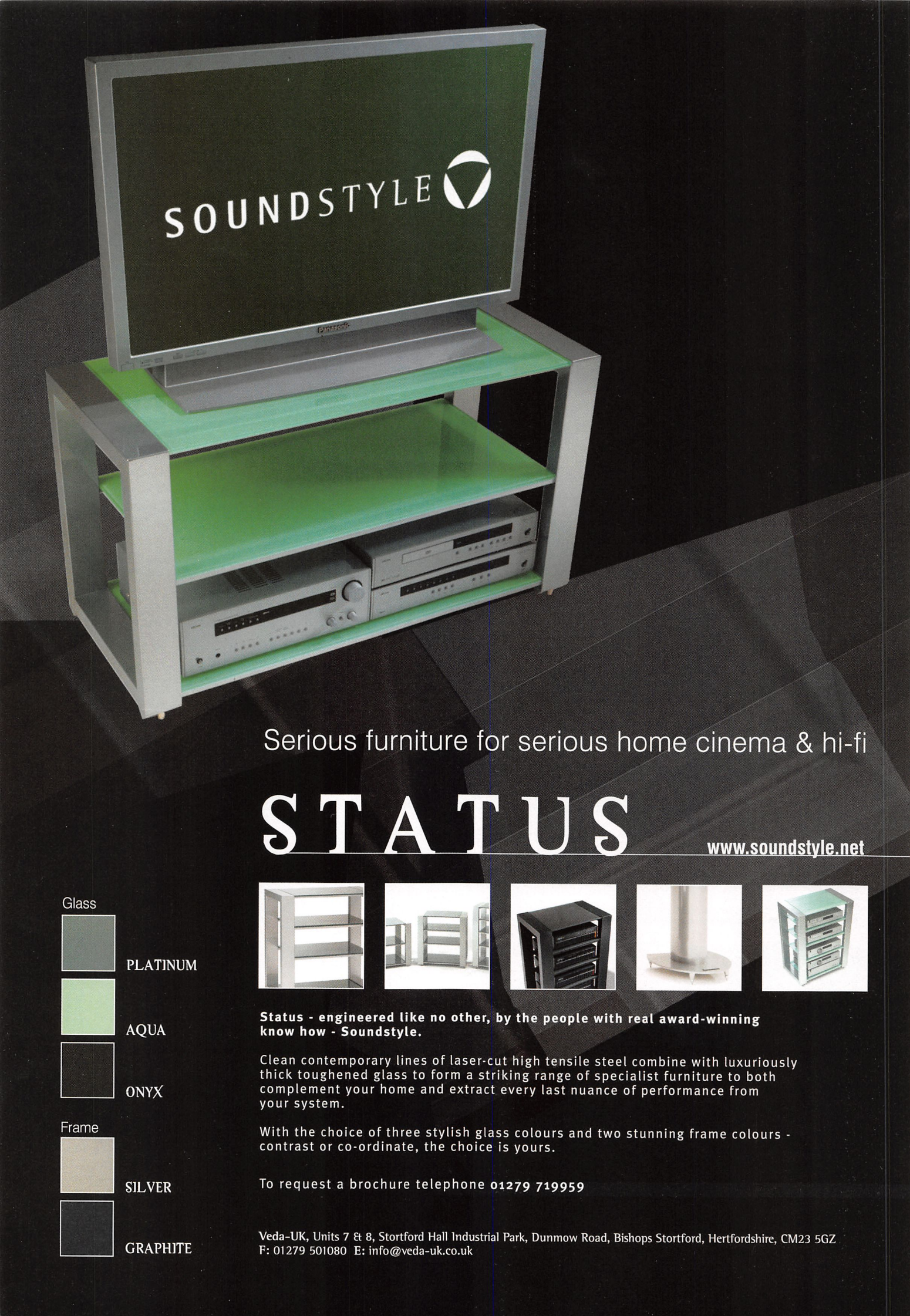
> "Colours refuse to keep their composure when movement rises above snail's pace, with slime trails"

Performance is plagued by a return of the green colour balance that heightens the grass in *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* to almost unbearable levels. And colours refuse to keep their composure when movement rises above snail's pace – and they leave nice slime trails in their wake, too.

Sonically, the Pacific struggles in every area, with dynamics that fail to recognise sound above or below an unnatural-sounding midrange, leaving voices detached from the images. And, if you enjoy music, refrain from playing CDs – it's like hearing a *Pop Idol* contestant mangling your favourite song.

At £38 it would have been sheer folly to expect the Pacific to come out on top, but it's still a disappointment to find something that performs so badly it doesn't even warrant use as a spare unit.

For full specifications of every product tested go to page 48



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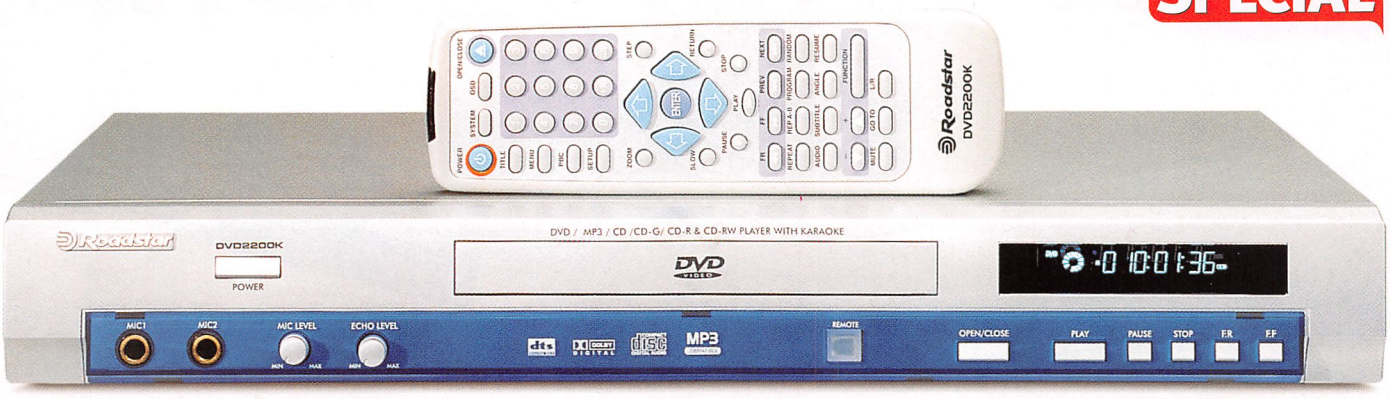

Roadstar DVD 2200K

★★☆☆☆ £100

FOR

Reasonable spread of features, including a karaoke function!

AGAINST

Terrible picture performance for the price

VERDICT

The Roadstar's picture will leave you singing the blues, karaoke style

NOT ONLY DOES the Roadstar DVD 2200K play a variety of digital discs but it also acts as a karaoke machine, complete with twin microphones and a CD starter pack – ideal for that post-pub experience.

The colourful design features a neon-blue fascia and an equally kaleidoscopic remote that reflects the fun nature of this player, which seems aimed at a younger audience.

We didn't test this player's karaoke capabilities, but hope they're better than its video performance – which, given that this player is at the top end of this test's price-band, is frankly duff.

> "We didn't test this player's karaoke capabilities but hope they fare better than video performance"

Practically every aspect of picture performance is plagued by weaknesses: these include superficial, unbalanced colours, contrast levels that mask detail and a sustained level of digital noise throughout. True, the sound outperforms the picture, but it's a close-run thing: the explosive space effects in *The Fifth Element* are delivered without distortion and a reasonable degree of timing accuracy means stereo playback is better than others.

But ultimately we expect a lot more for a player at this price, and in terms of picture-per-pound the Roadstar ranks as one of the worse buys in this test. Unless you regularly feel the need to enact pop star ambitions in front of bemused friends, this player should be seen as a karaoke machine that plays DVDs, not the other way around.

Samsung DVD-E234

★★★☆☆ £100

FOR

Neat styling; fair picture; competent sound

AGAINST

Fails to excite in any area

VERDICT

Samsung's player is too good to be bad, but not good enough to be great

THE SAMSUNG DVD-E234 is a competent player that neither excites nor dismays. Everything from the neat but unimaginative styling to the fair level of picture quality is average.

As a budget player it does all you could reasonably ask and even flaunts a few extra features such as a 3D sound function and EZ view aspect ratio adjustment. And there's a choice of digital audio and video connections – remember to set the rear switch to initiate RGB viewing with a Scart.

At the same price as the class-leading Toshiba, it's difficult

> "Colours are natural and detail is reasonably sharp with only fleeting evidence of digital noise"

to recommend the Samsung but just as hard to over-criticise a player that performs positively but still falls short of what can be achieved at this price point. Colours are natural and detail is reasonably sharp with only fleeting evidence of digital noise affecting the picture. But there's noticeable judder when the camera pans across a broad area and some blurring in fast-paced action scenes.

There are few harsh criticisms of the sound, but an obvious gap exists between this and class leaders. Good detail lends itself to ambient soundtracks, with plenty of information and a nice sense of spatial awareness but without the weight to do justice to demanding film scores. Music performance is indifferent, though.

The E234 is a fine player, but for the price you could do better – read on to find out how.

RATINGS ★★★★★ The best on the market ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Average ★★☆☆☆ Below par ★☆☆☆☆ Don't bother

ABRACADABRA

The magic of TEAC DAB radio

Following on from the award winning Reference 300 system, TEAC is proud to announce the World's first mini component Hi-Fi system tuner with Digital Audio Broadcasting. Fully matching the Reference 300 series, the T-H300DAB offers amazing audio quality, not just from the many new digital stations now available, but also the existing FM stations. This, coupled with the exciting information display and easy to use DAB channel selection, makes it the ultimate upgrade for your system. The Reference 300 DAB tuner has the same stunning good looks, style and build quality you have come to expect from TEAC. As if by magic, digital radio has now arrived in a mini format.

Reference 300 System

Digital Audio Broadcast from TEAC, the future of radio has arrived

TEAC

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Call TEAC on 01923 819630 for more information

Sanyo DVD SL22

★★★☆☆ £100

FOR

Doesn't offend in any way

AGAINST

Doesn't excite in any way

VERDICT

Another average player that's lost in the shadow of the class leader at this price

SANYO'S DVD SL22 inhabits the grey area that separates the under-achievers and outperformers in this test, deserving neither high praise nor damning criticism.

In its favour, it's possibly the most aesthetically attractive player in the test, featuring an aluminium-effect front panel with easy access controls that's a cut above the mock-metal designs seen elsewhere.

And although the matching remote appears overcrowded, the important keys are given enough space to allow easy use. Set-up menus are recognisable from previous players, leading to similarly fuss-free installation and operation. A big difference, though is that connections only extend to an optical digital output, as opposed to the better-sounding coaxial version.

> "There's an obvious distinction between this player and some of the lesser models in this *Supertest*"

And so to performance. There's an obvious distinction in picture quality between this player and some of the lesser models in the test, but the difference isn't great enough to compare it with class-leading products at the same price. Contrast levels and black depth in particular can be improved, as pictures lack a level of solidity and edges tend to fizz. Otherwise picture performance is competent.

Sound output benefits from a natural, expressive midrange that works well with dialogue heavy films like *Analyze That*, but the music ability suits vocals rather than big beats.

The SL22 is acceptable but you can do better for the same money.

Toshiba SD330E

★★★★★ £100

FOR

Peerless picture and sound performance

AGAINST

For the money, absolutely nothing

VERDICT

At this price, accept no substitute – and if you shop around, you can pick up the Award-winning Toshiba for around £80

IF YOU THOUGHT all hope of finding an outstanding budget player had faded, rest assured that the Award-winning Toshiba SD330E still holds the trump card in this otherwise uninspiring pack.

The Toshiba bears all the hallmarks of quality you could wish for at this price. Even on style it's a cut above the competition, featuring a slimline, silver case that stands out in this company. There's an ample array of connections including component outputs – although it's not progressive scan-enabled it's still good enough to complement a high-quality display.

> "While others struggle, the SD330 produces the most natural colours we've seen at this level"

Set-up menus are characterised by colourful graphics and simple-to-follow steps.

With a picture as good as we have here, though, everything else becomes an afterthought. Above all, while other players struggle, the SD330 produces the most natural colours we've seen at this level: solid blacks and superb contrast lift images from their docile two-dimensional state. Not only does the picture leave rivals trailing in its wake, but sound is superior in both surround and stereo, with a refined, detailed delivery that reveals subtleties and doesn't shy away from the explosive effects.

A recent fall in price has allowed the Toshiba SD3330E to mingle with this modest competition and for less than £100 it's the only player we'd recommend without hesitation.

For full specifications of every product tested go to page 48

DVD players
data in full

Aiwa XD-AX10
£100

Alba DVD45
£40

Arianet PDVD-2277
£70 (inc delivery)

Bush DVD2035
£70

Ratings

	Aiwa XD-AX10	Alba DVD45	Arianet PDVD-2277	Bush DVD2035
Picture	★★★★☆	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
Sound	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
Features	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆	★★★★★	★★★☆☆
VERDICT	★★★★☆	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
Summary	Good all round performance but can't quite match the class leader at the same price.	Competitively priced but ultimately flawed in terms of build quality, sound and picture.	Impressive list of specifications, including progressive scan, but performance is disappointing	Competent player that's well priced but failed to excite us in any way.

Specifications

	Aiwa XD-AX10	Alba DVD45	Arianet PDVD-2277	Bush DVD2035
Formats Supported				
CD-R/RW	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MP3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Picture CD	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Audio outputs				
Line out	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.1 out	No	No	Yes	No
Optical digital	No	No	Yes	No
Coaxial digital	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Video outputs				
Scart/RGB	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Component	No	No	Yes	Yes (Not UK-supp)
S-video	No	No	Yes	Yes
Composite	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other Stuff				
Remote	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dimensions (WxHxDcm)	43x5.5x23.4	36x5x27.5	43x5x25	43x5x28.5
Karaoke	No	No	No	No

Other stuff...

	Aiwa XD-AX10	Alba DVD45	Arianet PDVD-2277	Bush DVD2035
Manufacturer/distributor's phone number	(0870) 168 9000	(0870) 873 0079	(0870) 443 2383	(0870) 873 0079
Manufacturer's web address	www.eu.aiwa.com/en/	www.alba-radio.co.uk	www.aria.co.uk	www.bush-radio.co.uk

What our testers said...

"On paper, a DVD player for under £100 looks great value, but this test proves that is not always the case. Many of these budget players paint the screen a strange shade of green and detail levels are poor. Cheap technology is admirable but not when it means your new DVD player looks worse than your old VCR. And don't forget sound quality – the Toshiba is good for the money, but spend an extra £150 on your DVD player and you can significantly boost its sonic performance potential."

Murdo Mathewson
Staff writer

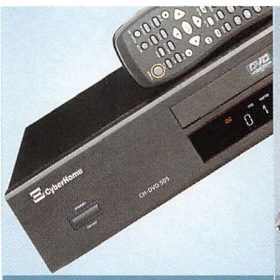
"It amazes me that I now own several DVD box sets that cost me more than a fully functioning DVD player. In fact, I can see a great Christmas marketing wheeze on the horizon: buy the box set, get a free DVD player thrown in. But I still wouldn't advise any of you to buy a super-cheap player, not when the Toshiba SD-330E offers so much more for only a modest extra premium (especially if you shop around). If you want a player that does more than just 'function', the Tosh is the one to go for."

Andy Kerr
Home cinema tests editor

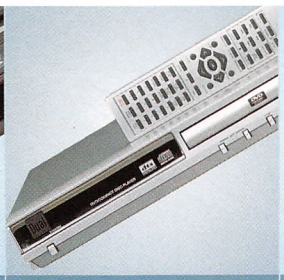
"Several of these DVD players are sold in supermarkets, and in some cases there's a strong resemblance to the tin-of-beans-for-8p ranges of value groceries. Yes, they're DVD players, but only on the most basic level, with a fraction of the performance potential of decent models. As the Toshiba shows, a little more cash buys you a far more tasty prospect – it may leave you less money for the DVDs themselves, but I'd take a few favourite films looking great over more movies looking green any day."

Clare Newsome
Managing editor

DVD players
data in full



Cyberhome CH-DVD505
£100



Dual DVD858
£55

Goodmans GDVD141
£70

Pacific DVD 1001
£38

Cyberhome CH-DVD505	Dual DVD858	Goodmans GDVD141	Pacific DVD 1001	
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Picture
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Sound
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Features
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	Value
Surprised us with its performance – another player boasting a rare number of specifications.	Pretty lacklustre performance and quality but the pick of a poor crop of super-cheap players.	Pictures plagued by a green tint that's the hallmark of less expensive players.	The lowest-priced player in this Supertest, but its performance leaves a lot to be desired.	Summary

Specifications

				Formats Supported
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	CD-R/RW
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	MP3
No	No	No	No	Picture CD
				Audio outputs
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Line out
Yes	No	No	No	5.1 out
Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Optical digital
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Coaxial digital
				Video outputs
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Scart/RGB
Yes	No	No	No	Component
Yes	Yes	No	Yes	S-video
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Composite
				Other Stuff
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Remote
43x8x29	43x5.3x24.2	43x4.8x26	36x5x28	Dimensions (WxHxDcm)
No	No	No	No	Karaoke
(02392) 697305	(0500) 1000 55	(0870) 873 0079	(0500) 1000 55	Manufacturer/distributor's phone number
www.cyberhome-europe.de	www.asda.co.uk	www.goodmans.co.uk	www.asda.co.uk	Manufacturer's web address

Tricky terms explained

Component video Only available on some DVD players, but gives the optimum picture quality when used in conjunction with a similarly-equipped TV, projector or plasma screen.

RGB Stands for Red, Green, Blue and gives the best picture quality when connecting the DVD player to a TV using a Scart cable, provided the Scart socket on the DVD player can output a RGB signal. Remember you will have to set your DVD player to RGB using the menus.

Progressive scan Provides even sharper images from a suitably-equipped DVD player and TV, LCD, plasma or projector. Can now be found in both PAL and NTSC (ie British and American) forms.

5.1 channel output If your AV amp or receiver is an older Pro-Logic only model and you're using your DVD player's internal Dolby Digital/DTS decoding, then you need to hook the two together using six

interconnects. You'll also need to make this sort of connection to listen to DVD-Audio and SACD Multichannel.

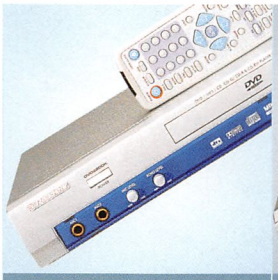
Region hack Allows you to modify the player so it will play DVD discs from other regions such as the US (region 1). Usually done using the remote. Many players are sold 'pre-hacked' by dealers, but it's best to check this before your purchase.

DVD-Audio New high-resolution audio format that offers multichannel surround-sound music and high-quality 24-bit/192KHz stereo.

Super Audio CD (SACD) rival high-resolution music disc format to DVD-A.

Turn the page for more verdict data

DVD players
data in full



Roadstar DVD 2200K
£100

Samsung DVD-E234
£100

Sanyo DVD-SL22
£100

Toshiba SD330E
£100

Ratings

	Roadstar DVD 2200K	Samsung DVD-E234	Sanyo DVD-SL22	Toshiba SD330E
Picture	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★★
Sound	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★★
Features	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆
VERDICT	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★★
Summary	Unless you're into karaoke you'll be wholly disappointed by this relatively pricey player.	Average in just about every aspect. You can do much better for the price.	Indifferent performance for a price that matches the class leader. Why accept a poor substitute?	This year's Award winner and still the best budget player around. Outstanding.

Specifications

	Roadstar DVD 2200K	Samsung DVD-E234	Sanyo DVD-SL22	Toshiba SD330E
Formats Supported	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CD-R/RW	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
MP3	Yes	No	No	Yes
Picture CD				
Audio outputs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Line out	No	No	No	No
5.1 out	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Optical digital	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Coaxial digital				
Video outputs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scart/RGB	No	No	No	Yes
Component	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
S-video	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Composite				
Other Stuff	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Remote	25.5x56x43	43x6x24	36x5.5x25	43x6x22
Dimensions (WxHxDcm)	Yes	No	No	No
Karaoke	No	No	No	No

Other stuff...

	Roadstar DVD 2200K	Samsung DVD-E234	Sanyo DVD-SL22	Toshiba SD330E
Manufacturer/distributor's phone number	(0870) 873 0079	(0870) 242 0303	(01923) 246363	(08704) 424424
Manufacturer's web address	www.roadstar-uk.co.uk	www.samsung.co.uk	www.sanyo.co.uk	www.toshiba.co.uk

Make the most of the winner

If you want to get the most from your Toshiba DVD player, don't just plonk it down below your telly and leave it at that. A few simple procedures will get the most from it; all you need is the remote and the on-screen display.

Step 1

First, you need to 'tell' your DVD player about your TV. Virtually every DVD disc contains electronic widescreen coding designed to produce the optimum picture, in terms of both image size and image quality, with a widescreen TV. To crack this 'anamorphic' code, you need to tell the Toshiba that you've got a '16:9' TV. If you haven't got a 16:9 widescreen set, then set '4:3 letterbox', since this ensures that the pictures you see are correctly formatted on the screen. However, some newer 4:3 televisions also include a '16:9 widescreen mode', and you can use this mode to get a better picture by setting both your DVD player and your TV to the appropriate 16:9 mode. Turn off the 16:9 on your TV when you've finished your DVD.

Step 2

Next, select the RGB mode for your Scart connection. This will give you the

best picture, unless you're fortunate enough to own a TV that has component video inputs. In this case, turn the RGB option off, and use component video connections between your DVD player and TV. You'll need an extra pair of phono audio cables if you want to send sound into your TV as well as pictures.

Step 3

Finally, select your sound options. Choose 'digital output normal' if you've got a home cinema set-up, as this will give you true 5.1 surround sound. Remember to buy a decent digital cable, though! If you haven't got a home cinema system, turn the digital output to 'PCM', and then link your DVD player into your TV using a Scart cable or phono cables, as above.

THE OVERALL WINNER

Toshiba SD330E

★★★★★ £100

AN UNDERSTANDING OF rocket science isn't required to work out that, as the only five-star player, Toshiba's Award-winning SD330E is the obvious winner of our budget DVD player *Supertest*.

Prices may have fallen to all-new low levels but we're disappointed with the standard of performance on offer. In fact, price plays less of a part in this test, as the difference between the most and least expensive players is minimal. And with the lower-priced models generally reflecting inferior standards, without any real bargains below the £100 point, it makes sense to concentrate on the high end of this spectrum.

The players were primarily judged on picture performance, followed by sound performance and finally features and flexibility. And in a collection of players characterised by over-emphasised colours, soft detail and unhidden digital artefacts, the SD330E is the only player that presents a truly natural picture, simultaneously rendering natural tones alongside surreal special effects with detail that leaves the competition trailing in its wake. Sonically too, there's no substitute – Toshiba's superior dynamics and cohesive steering create an involving listening experience that's as gentle with subtleties like dialogue as it's forceful with dramatic effects.

> "The SD330E is the only player that presents a truly natural picture"

Leading the chasing pack are Aiwa's XD-AX10 and Cyberhome's surprising dark horse, the CHDVD 505. Both are excellent players, but are destined to live in the shadow of the outstanding Toshiba unless they can become more price competitive.

The Cyberhome is one of several players that surprised us with an exhaustive list of specifications that's rare at this price – Arianet's progressive scan player is a prime example. However, the Toshiba's RGB picture outperformed anything other component-sourced pictures in this test had to offer.

The remaining players can be divided into two camps: Camp Average and Camp Awful. Average players such as Samsung's DVD E234 are defined by competent but unexciting performance that can be bettered at no extra cost. Meanwhile, awful players like the Pacific DVD 1001 generally consist of the bargain-basement models that are tainted by unbalanced colours, poor contrast and extremes of digital noise.

It pays to spend a little extra especially in the direction of the Toshiba SD330E, still the reigning DVD champ.

OVER THE NEXT 12 PAGES...

Top home cinema for every wallet

We've lined up some of Britain's best budget kit to create some great low-cost home cinema solutions

HOME CINEMA IN A BOX

from £150

These simple sound systems are ideal for home cinema on a budget. They won't shake your foundations or give you great hi-fi, but they will comfortably outperform the best results of any TV, delivering proper Dolby Digital and DTS 5.1 surround sound for a very modest outlay. All you need add is a digital cable.

Page 52/3

SURROUND TVS

from £650

If you don't want to have to put up with the fuss of a true surround system, then a surround sound TV can be worth a look. Most of the latest sets offer better-quality amplification than before, coupled to Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound decoding. You'll get a modest pair of surround sound speakers included.

Page 54/5

SURROUND RECEIVERS

from £250

Our preferred option for a better-quality home cinema system, the multichannel receiver is a flexible beast that can accommodate virtually any system need, as well as providing muscular surround audio to as many as seven loudspeakers. They'll also give you better quality stereo sound.

Page 56/7

SPEAKER PACKAGES

from £349

Compact speaker systems like this will give you potent surround sound without taking over your living room. By offering matched speakers throughout the system, these set-ups deliver a more convincing spread of sound than you'd get by 'mixing and matching' speakers from a range of companies.

Page 58/9

NICAM STEREO TVS

from £500

Although plasma and LCD sets dominate the news these days, the good old cathode ray tube still gives you the best picture for your money, and these days, a decent TV costs less than you'd think. We've gone for flat-tube sets since they offer a cleaner picture that's free of unwanted distortions.

Page 60/1

Turn to page 62 to find how to build kit like this into three cracking home cinema systems

Home cinema in a box £150-£500

Looking to buy a complete set-up? Try these combinations for one-stop surround sound success

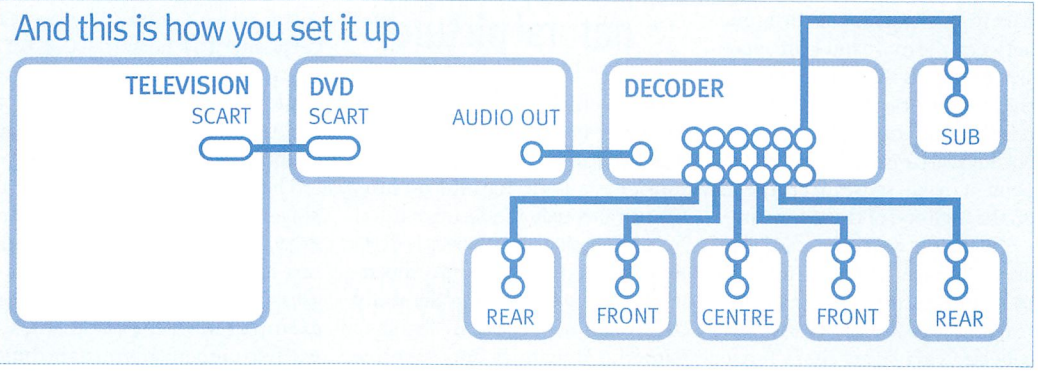
The home cinema in a box system is exactly what you'd expect to be: a complete package of speakers, surround sound decoding and amplification in one large package. Some systems also include built-in DVD players, and indeed these 'just add a telly' packages have given the consumer electronics industry one of its big success stories of recent times. However, since we're recommending kit to go with our Supertest-winning Toshiba player (see p51), we've gone for the simpler decoder-based systems, which combine processing, amplification and all the speakers you need for surround sound.

So what does that mean? Simply put, it means if you already have a DVD player, this kind of home cinema in a box system will give you everything else that you need for a modest home cinema system. The Dolby/DTS decoder section in each of these systems takes care of the complex business of generating surround sound from the datastream coming off the DVD via a digital connection, while modest amplification for all the channels is commonly built into the bass-generating subwoofer. It's not the kind of sound that will shake your sofa, and these systems do suffer from limitations when used for replaying music, but for both compactness and convenience – to say nothing of what often looks like a giveaway price – these systems seem to offer top value.

> "If you already have a DVD player, this kind of package will give you everything else you need"

If you don't expect miracles, or simply want a system for the kids or a second room, this kind of set up could be the answer.

And this is how you set it up



CREATIVE INSPIRE GD580

£150

★★☆☆☆

FOR

Compact and inexpensive; looks good

AGAINST

Sounds resolutely small-scale; really for computer use only

VERDICT

The price and style may appeal, but the Creative package's performance shows there's only so much you can do with very tiny, very cheap speakers

HOW LITTLE DO you have to spend to get a complete home cinema processor/speakers system? Well, £150 seems to be the answer, judging from this package from computer ancillaries specialist Creative: in the box you get a processor unit plus five tiny satellite speakers and a subwoofer with built-in amplification, plus of course all the cables you need to hook it up.

Creative has been making packages like this for quite a while, and plays it laudably straight when it comes to quoting the power available from this system: you get 5x6W, plus 17W for the subwoofer. That's quite a way from stump-pulling, groundshaking power, and this – plus the relatively short cables provided to connect processor to sub, and then sub to speakers – suggests this is a system very much designed for personal listening. In fact, the cables are so short you'd have problems spreading the speakers around even a modest-sized room without recourse to extension leads.

The processor has both line and digital (optical/electrical) inputs, and has Dolby Digital/Pro-Logic II and DTS decoding, plus a number of 'effects', best avoided. It's relatively easy to set up, though the lack of any display makes getting the channel balance a little trickier than with conventional processors.

So how does the Creative sound? Small – it's as simple as that. Park yourself on the floor in front of the telly with the speakers all around you and the presentation is just about adequate – provided you're not expecting furniture-rearranging explosions and mind-boggling effects – but in a more conventional front-room set-up, tiny speakers, weedy sub and the short cables provided mean you're on a hiding to nothing. And the music reproduction? Well, it's also just as you'd expect from very small computer speakers – bright, lacking any semblance of realistic weight, and rather compressed.

If the kids watch DVDs on bedroom computers, this package may be suitable. For anything more ambitious, forget it. There's nothing much to Inspire here.

Creative's system is cheap, but has nothing to Inspire

LOGITECH Z-680
£299

★★★☆☆

FOR

Style and solidity of build for the money; reasonably good channel steering

AGAINST

A bit thin and weedy beside more conventional (and pricier) packages

VERDICT

The Logitech system seems to have it all, including THX certification, but while it's OK for the money it isn't quite to the standards of conventional hi-fi

PSSST! WANNA BUY a THX system? Speakers, processor, amp, the lot? To you, mate, £300 complete – all you need add is a DVD player and telly. And yes, the Logitech Z-680 does come complete with THX Multimedia certification, which is a quality standard for speakers and systems for computer use.

And the power output seems decent, at least on first inspection: the sub gets 185W, while the rest of the speakers are treated to 53W per channel. But these figures are quoted at 10% clipping distortion into a single frequency – 100Hz for the sub, 1kHz for the rest – suggesting the real figures, full range and with distortion of 1% or less, are a fraction of this.

The Logitech is relatively well put together, and accepts a six-channel analogue input, stereo line-in and optical and electrical digital feeds, while the stylish processor/amp offers Dolby Digital/Pro-Logic II and DTS processing along with a range of proprietary surround effects, and is easy to set up. And as the manual says, 'for a pro-audio look, remove the cloth grilles...'

The sound is reasonably persuasive, at least in small rooms: the high-octane action of *2Fast2Furious* or *The Italian Job* is delivered in suitably exciting fashion, with lots of stuff whizzing around you, and the subtle dialogue of *Gosford Park* is intelligible and easy to follow. But the system lacks all-out clout when you push it a bit – it may be fine for a single gamer hunched over a computer with fingers a-twitching, but it's only barely up to the task of filling a room with surround sound for the whole family to enjoy. With music it's pretty woeful: the basics are there, but you wouldn't choose this as your only source of listening, as the overall result is compressed.

Logitech package has the style, but it could sound better

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AEGO P5
£499

★★★★☆

FOR

Compact and stylish; still offers a high standard of performance

AGAINST

Buy now while stocks last; shows its age in the lack of Dolby Pro-Logic II processing

VERDICT

Still a fine buy, helped by a £100 price drop, but it's on the way out very soon

IT'S ALMOST CURTAINS for one of our favourite speaker packages: after a couple of years at the top, Acoustic Energy's innovative Aego package is soon to bite the dust in order to make way for a replacement. The good news, however, is that there should still be stocks in the shops, and the price has fallen by £100 to make it an even better buy.

The system remains neat and very competitive, from its compact processor to the stylish little speakers, drawing on the manufacturer's extensive experience of making acclaimed conventional designs. These really are AEs in miniature, and while they deliver a totally convincing sound, there are some signs that this is by far the oldest package here.

The most notable omission is Dolby Pro-Logic II processing: the P5 has the original MkI version, which is something of a handicap when products are beginning to emerge with third-generation Pro-Logic IIx processing. It means this system is less convincing when it comes to creating good surround from older soundtracks and stereo material such as CDs.

However, when it comes to Dolby Digital or DTS 5.1-channel sound, the Aego package is still very much on the pace, offering a fine mix of subtlety and pure clout. That means it gives an expansive soundstage with fine focus, and best of all plenty of weight when it comes to those big action soundtracks. Partner this with your budget DVD player and we're sure you won't be disappointed.

Yes, the Acoustic Energy Aego P5 is both the oldest system here and the most expensive, but it still offers good, if not spectacular, value.

Acoustic Energy Aego P5: buy now to avoid disappointment

Surround sound TVs £650-£1300

There's nothing to rival the surround sound TV for a convenient and neat home cinema system

IF YOU WANT the ultimate in convenient surround sound, there's little to rival the surround sound television. One of the earliest 'convenience' solutions for easy home cinema, the surround sound TV dates back to the early '90s, and offers a simple proposition for affordable home cinema. You get the TV, the amplification, the surround decoding and all the speakers you need in one package; all you need do is add the source, and in the modern world, that means a DVD player.

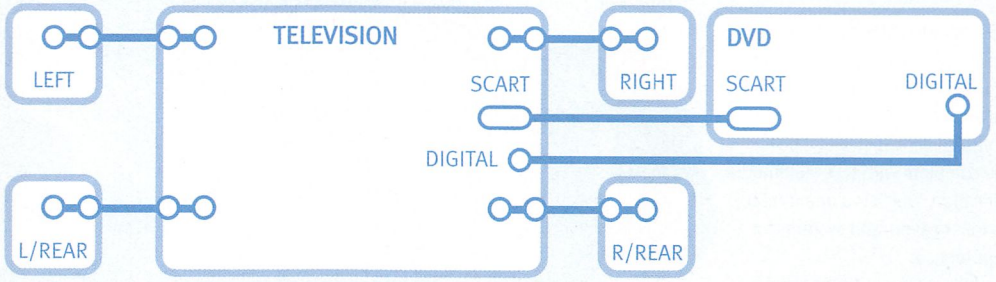
There are some drawbacks worth mentioning. Many very affordable surround TVs tend to be Pro-Logic only, with no provision for the higher-quality Dolby Digital surround sound that'd you'd get from other solutions. We've gone solely for Dolby Digital sets in our round-up below, because we feel that the added sonic benefits are more than worth the additional outlay.

Other issues? The amplification is strictly limited in quality and power, while the speakers tend to be flimsy, lightweight affairs that lack the guts of their separates rivals. You'll also find that most surround sets only include rear speakers as standard, which means that the front speaker 'image' you get is narrower in width than the results you'll get with a separates system.

> "You get the TV, the amplification, the surround decoding and all the speakers you need in one complete package"

But it's true that some of the best modern sets have improved dramatically on all these issues, and like we said, for convenience and neatness, the surround sound TV takes some beating. Check out the wireless rear speakers on the Philips 28PW9618 as evidence.

And this is how you set it up



PANASONIC TX-28PS5

£650

★★★★☆

FOR

Great picture, reasonable price, effective surround sound steering

AGAINST

Lacks the muscular sound of a home cinema in a box system; limited Scart fit

VERDICT

Well worth a look. The TX-28PS5 is ideal for an affordable surround system, especially in a smaller living room

Another vision cracker from Panasonic at a fabulous price – this one comes with the added bonus of surround sound

OUR FIRST SURROUND set is also one of the most affordable. In many ways, the Panasonic TX-28PS5 is a similar proposition to the outstanding TX-28PS1, in that it's a standard 50Hz chassis rather than an all-singing, all-dancing 100Hz affair, but that's no bad thing; the PS1 is our favourite budget widescreen set. It provides a superb picture for the price, with outstanding levels of contrast, colour realism and detail, and the TX-28PS5 is no different. In image terms, it's a peach.

The key difference, of course, is the provision of internal surround sound decoding, in this case for both Dolby Pro-Logic and Dolby Digital 5.1, the latter being accessible from both coaxial and optical digital input sockets. Just add a DVD player and the appropriate digital interconnect cable.

Sonically, this set is a fine affordable solution. No, it won't shake your foundations with deep bass, despite its internal subwoofer, and you won't get the same level of midrange punch that you'd find from a decent separates system either. But you do get modest, effective surround steering and a decent level of surround sound involvement, especially with a beefy action movie soundtrack. To get the best surround results, ensure you put the surround speakers at a decent height, and you should find that you'll be involved in the movie action far more than you would with a normal TV.

At this price, the Panasonic is well worth a look. It's got a great picture, and it works well enough sonically.

PHILIPS 28PW9618
£1200

★★★★★

FOR

Excellent picture, flexible socket fit, neat wireless surround speakers...

AGAINST

...although they aren't actually 'wireless', because they need to be mains-powered

VERDICT

Not cheap, but a fantastic TV, blessed with a great picture (although it isn't that big) and decent digital surround sound

OUR SURROUND TV Award-winner is a terrific set. The 28PW9618 is a compact widescreen set featuring Philips' much vaunted Pixel Plus technology, which increases the number of pixels and lines in the picture to improve detail.

And sound isn't a second thought either, with integrated front left, right and centre speakers, and two wireless rear speakers offering both Dolby Pro Logic II and Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound. Having said that, 'wireless' is a loose term, as connections to an external receiver box still need to be made. Still, you get an impressive array of audio connections including 5.1 audio preouts and digital inputs and output as well as four Scarts, but no component connections.

Picture performance is great, with fluid motion and contrast levels that literally lift images from the screen. Meanwhile, the sound teems with detail, and smooth steering between channels create an involving listening experience. It's a little light in the bass, though; if you really want to 'max' the set's performance, use the connection options to add an external subwoofer.

TOSHIBA 32ZP38
£1300

★★★★★

FOR

Sensational picture, truly extensive array of sockets, fine surround sound steering

AGAINST

Not much, save the slightly disappointing decoding/processing options

VERDICT

A fine-sounding set that provides a fine blend of attributes at its price. If you've got the money, it's a fine buy

OUR FINAL SURROUND TV is one of the best-sounding we've heard. This is chiefly because it uses external speakers for both the rear and the front (making four in total), so you get surrounded much more effectively than is typical from a set in this class. Surround audio is forceful and weighty, and effects move with a speed and conviction that rivals the best efforts of many budget home cinema in a box systems, save perhaps in terms of overall bass weight.

Having said that, the Toshiba is slightly off the pace in terms of surround sound decoding and processing options, both compared to home cinema in a box sets, and other surround sound TVs in its price class. It provides Dolby Digital 5.1 surround decoding, but you don't get the benefit of Dolby Pro-Logic II (unlike the Philips set tested above); instead, you have to make do with plain-vanilla Pro-Logic, which works well enough, but doesn't rival its newer sibling. You can also forget the benefits of DTS decoding.

But the Toshiba still wins a place in our affections, chiefly because of its excellent home cinema credentials. As you'd hope from a set in this price class, it's compatible with PAL and NTSC progressive scan video from a suitable DVD source, and has a truly extensive socket fit, including both component video sockets and three Scarts, two of which have RGB.

And as we've come to expect from Toshiba sets, the picture quality is just sensational. Images are pin-sharp, colours are rich and vivid, and black depth is exceptional, being bettered only by deadly rival Panasonic. It's exceptionally impressive with DVD signals, although even off-air viewing impresses; you'll love the mix of low picture 'noise' and smooth, natural motion across the screen.

Multichannel receivers £250-£330

Want more oomph and upgrade potential? What you want is a full-blown AV powerhouse like these

IF YOU WANT to take a step up in price and ability, a dedicated multichannel receiver should be on your shopping list. Sure, this is the pricier path – remember, opt for a receiver, and you'll also have to budget for speakers and cabling, both of which are usually included in packaged systems – but in both home cinema and in stereo use, a separates receiver will outperform an all-in-one home-cinema-in-a-box set-up.

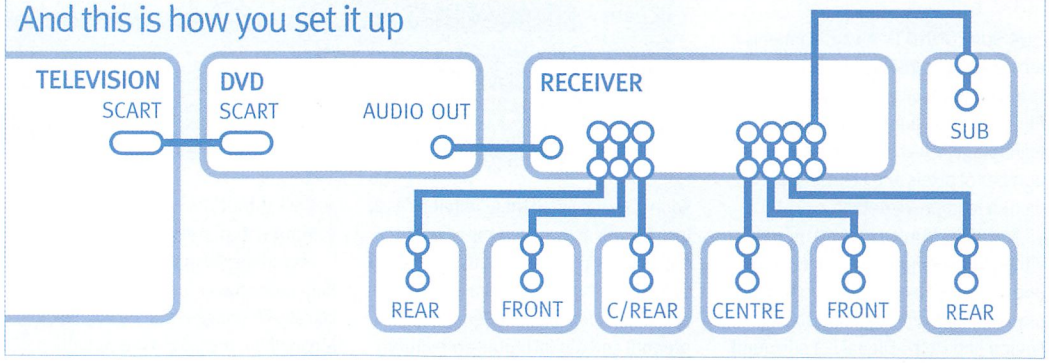
The good news, though, is that just as prices of DVD players continue to tumble, offering you ever more performance for your money, the latest multichannel receivers cost a lot less than their forebears, yet have made significant strides in both sonic ability and flexibility. Aside from the very cheapest, most now offer full compatibility with DVDs having 6.1 'extended surround' soundtracks, giving you a much more three-dimensional home cinema experience – assuming you're prepared to put up with an extra surround speaker, of course.

All surround receivers also offer a great long-term ownership proposition, since even the least expensive designs come with plenty of input sockets to accept all the components you might want to connect to your set-up, from extra video sources such as your TV's sound and a video recorder right through to CD players and digital recorders.

> "The built-in upgrade path, coupled with sonic superiority over packages, makes a receiver the smart buy"

It's this built-in upgrade path, coupled with sonic superiority when compared to packaged solutions, that makes the receiver our preferred budget home cinema option. It's the smart buy.

And this is how you set it up



PIONEER VSX-C301S £250

★★★★★

FOR

Simplicity and style; compact dimensions but still delivers plenty of power

AGAINST

Nothing major, unless you're into receiver machismo, in which case see opposite

VERDICT

A fine partner for Pioneer's entry-level DV-464S DVD player, this slimline unit is also ideal with other budget machines

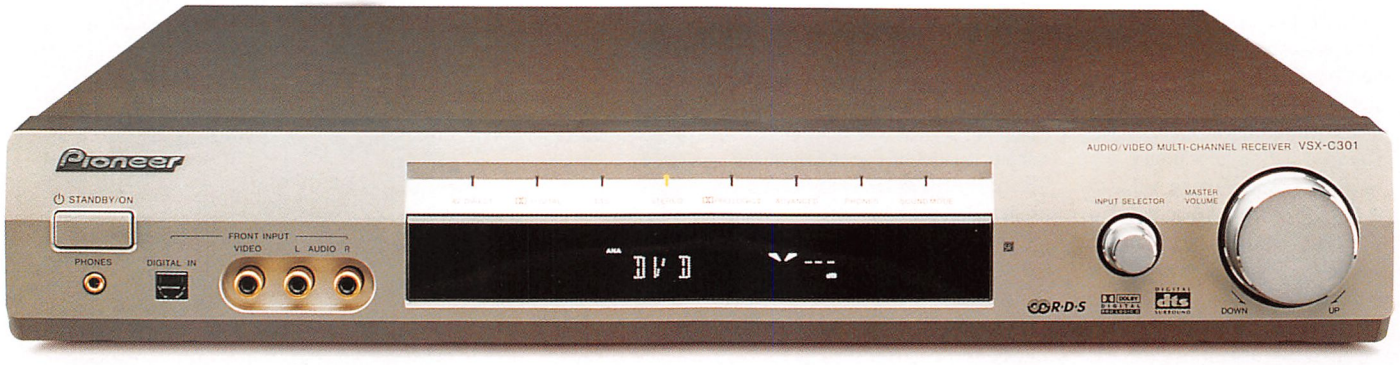
SO ALL RECEIVERS are big, hefty and macho, right? Wrong – the current trend is toward slimline home cinema equipment designed to tackle the all-in-one home-cinema-in-a-box packages head-on, and this Pioneer is a fine example of the trend. Yes, it's basically designed to partner the company's new-generation DVD players, and in particular the entry-level DV-464S, but while it doesn't make quite such a good visual match with our Toshiba *Supertest* winner, it certainly has the performance to make the most of the digital signal quality the SD330 can deliver.

And while the Pioneer may be very slim indeed, standing just 7cm tall, it's not lacking in power or weight. The onboard amplification delivers a claimed 75W into each of five channels – although this is in fact nearer 50Wpc when measured without the pixie dust of flattering distortion and frequency parameters – and the receiver supports all the popular surround formats, including the 5.1 versions of Dolby Digital, Dolby Pro-Logic II and DTS. There's also a 30-preset FM RDS/AM radio tuner built-in, along with a wide range of effects modes including proprietary settings for games, sports and headphone listening.

One novelty here is the provision of RGB-enabled Scart sockets on the rear of the receiver designed to make connection into a system even simpler than usual. Two Scart inputs are provided and two outputs, and while our advice would always be to connect your DVD player direct to a TV set for the very best picture quality, there's no denying the connections provided here are convenient. The unit also has conventional digital and analogue sockets for system hook-up.

The Pioneer VSX-C301S sounds as good as it looks, with a more than reasonable performance in stereo and plenty of weight and focus when playing multichannel soundtracks. Add in the ease with which it can be set-up and used, and you have a solution that will appeal to anyone wanting great sound without all the machismo.

Pioneer's slimline AV receiver may stand just 7cm tall, but it has a weighty, confident presentation of music and movies that belies its dimensions



YAMAHA RX-V440RDS

£300

★★★★★

FOR

Superb all-round ability; 6.1-channel operation; easy to set up and use

AGAINST

Not exactly dripping with facilities by the standards of its class; sound is warm

VERDICT

Not one of the newest receivers on the block, yet the Yamaha can still cut it, with great performance for the money

THE FIRST RECEIVER to hit the magic £300 barrier for a fully equipped 6.1 multichannel unit, Yamaha's RX-V440RDS has since then set the the benchmark that rival manufacturers have been striving to attain. And yet the Yamaha remains a strong buy in this highly competitive arena – clearly the company's designers got it right first time.

Kudos, then, to Yamaha for building a product that not only set new standards, but had the wherewithal to keep on leading a sector of the market. True, when compared with the Pioneer VSX-D812 below, the Yamaha's specification looks a little mean: it omits some of the input/output options provided on that unit, and as such is less able to grow with your system needs over time.

But it sounds so good that we don't really mind. Despite losing the 'on-paper' power war, the RX-V440RDS makes great use of its comparatively modest 65w per channel output, sounding full, rich and thoroughly listenable whatever you play through it. In part, that's a reflection of Yamaha's usual modesty with power output figures: to its credit, the company always quotes ratings measured using the most rigorous (and honest) criteria rather than trying to win the specification war by applying flattering parameters. And while this one sounds warm against some harder-hitting rivals, it's friendly, accommodating of speakers and rooms, and always rewarding to listen to.

That's readily demonstrated with a loud blast of action from *Behind Enemy Lines*. The RX-V440RDS can't match the Sony for processing speed or spaciousness, but it beats it for overall enjoyment – you revel in its richness and become immersed in the cinema-sound experience as you do so. Explosions have weight, conviction and good midrange drive, with bass as well-extended as any sensible listener could want for most modest living rooms. Perhaps it could sound punchier, but many listeners will prefer the Yamaha's unruffled, composed balance in any event.

And the Yamaha suffers from very few outright flaws. It's even decent in stereo – at least by the standards of AV receivers – conveying rhythms with a reasonable if slightly lush musicality. That, along with its home cinema strengths, means this remains one of the best multichannel receivers £300 (or less) can buy.

It may lose the specification war, and sound a little warm, but the Yamaha remains a great buy at just £300

PIONEER VSX-D812

£330

★★★★★

FOR

Blistering multichannel sound; decent stereo ability; terrific specification

AGAINST

Nothing at the price

VERDICT

Another astounding receiver from Pioneer, the VSX-D812S is capable of subtlety when required, and loads of power, too

PIONEER HAS SOMETIMES seemed to struggle at the entry-level end of the market: it's had some great home cinema products recently, but its budget stuff has been more competent than class-leading. The VSX-D812 puts all that right, looking very like a 'mini' version of the mighty £2700 VSX-AX10 – and why not? If you've got that kind of kudos sitting up at the top of your range, it's sensible to make use of it.

The VSX-D812 offers an extensive array of inputs and abilities for its price, and even allows you to connect two pairs of centre-rear speakers for what Pioneer calls a '7.1' set-up. As we've said many times before, there's no such thing – yet – but it's still a useful feature if you've got a larger room. However, since the two centre-rear speakers share the same amplification (this isn't the case in larger receivers, where discrete amps are used) it's important that you use easily driven speakers. Most popular designs at this kind of price level won't give the Pioneer any problems.

So, the specification is right, the looks are bang on the money: but how's the sound? In a word, excellent. The designers of the VSX-D812 seem to have added a layer of sophistication to its performance when compared to Pioneer's older budget receivers, which had a slight tendency to sound overbright, hard and coarse under duress. Just when you needed all the power and thunder, some of those units started to struggle.

There are no such problems here: this is a budget design with muscle, authority and the ability to go very loud indeed without ever sounding unduly harsh. The amplification power ratings – a claimed 6x100w – might have been 'cooked' upwards to appear more impressive (by using some flattering measurement parameters), but there's still plenty of drive, even during the excesses of *Behind Enemy Lines*' bangs and crashes. The seven-speaker mode works well, too, providing all that extra spaciousness when compared to a 6.1 set-up.

Surprisingly, the Pioneer works respectably with music, too. There are still the familiar weaknesses of timing and and bass agility to address – basically, a good stereo amp costing £150 has far more rhythmic ability – but by the same token, the VSX-D812 does manage to generate reasonable imaging, and it's not excessively unrefined. In fact, with multichannel SACD it proves to be a smooth, involving listen.

Yes, this is another remarkable Pioneer receiver, and shows just how seriously the company is taking the task of making this end of the market its own. And at the price it's an absolute steal.

Pioneer's £330 model looks like its range-toppers – and delivers more than a taste of their performance, too

Speaker packages £349-£800

Cracking surround sound speakers needn't hog a whole lot of cash or take up your entire living room

IF YOU'VE GOT a surround receiver, you'll need something to plug it into, and that's where these sharp-looking multichannel speaker packages step in.

Each comprises five speakers bolstered by a bass-generating subwoofer cabinet: that's one speaker for each of the main sound channels in a 5.1 surround set-up. Some modern receivers offer the additional flexibility of 6.1 surround sound, which means you'll need to find an extra speaker if you want to maximise the ability of your surround sound receiver.

Thankfully, many makers have tried to make this easier for you by offering an additional single surround speaker as an add-on upgrade, and usually these are available easily for a modest extra cost.

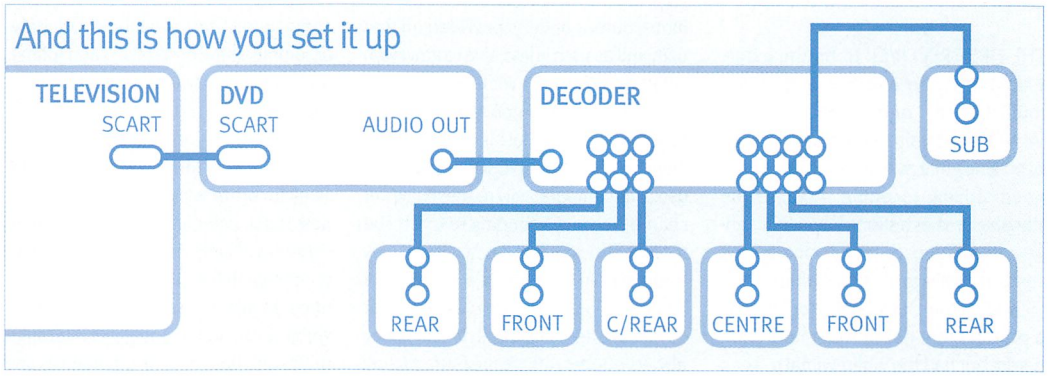
Remember when you go for any multichannel package that you'll need to budget for speaker cabling. A good system should use the same quality of speaker cable throughout, since this will help each speaker to sound tonally similar to its sibling. This will produce a more convincing, three-dimensional surround effect.

> "Remember, when you go for any multichannel package, that you'll need to budget for speaker cabling"

And don't forget the importance of speaker positioning. Speaker stands and wall brackets can transform the level of sonic delivery. A system won't thank you if you leave it on the carpet.

Finally, experiment with subwoofer location. Find the correct placement and you get tighter, more musical lower frequencies.

And this is how you set it up



CANTON MOVIE 10-MX II
£349

★★★★☆

FOR

Well-focused and crisp performance; good looks; price

AGAINST

Occasionally bright-sounding nature means you should take care with partnering kit

VERDICT

For a modest price, this compact Canton package gives you bags of excitement and living room friendly looks

THIS IS ONE of the cheapest speaker packages we've seen, but don't let the bargain-basement price put you off. This system is loads of fun.

The package shown here is the new version of Canton's compact Movie 10-MX II. It gets a silver paint job and a conventional horizontal centre-channel arrangement, as used in separates systems the world over, but remains extremely competetively priced.

Four cute-looking satellites handle front and rear effects, while an active subwoofer looks after the low end. Inside the sub sits 50W of internal amplification, w hich powers a 20cm drive unit. It's all finished to an especially high standard and good, solid wall brackets are included in the price. At just 10cm deep the satellites will happily sit on your wall.

Set-up is fairly simple. As with most sub/sat kits, the satellites are designed to reach down to 100Hz, the standard 'small' crossover point found in most surround amplifiers, with the subwoofer handling the rest.

You can position the sub almost anywhere in the room, but experiment for your room's sonic sweet spot. We found that the best integration between the sub and its satellites comes with the drive unit facing the wall. This means the sub 'pressure loads' the surface and maximises its own ouput.

If you are unpacking your system for the first time, then allow the 10-MX II a couple of days to warm and sound its best. The satellites use fairly modest 15mm tweeters, and can sound a little bright straight from the box. Ideally leave them running over the weekend (good and loud) and the initial harshness gives way to composed, focused and crisp detail. Voices don't carry the same weight and extension that some rivals can convey. The Mission package opposite does a better job, but the Canton set-up offers ample clarity and the surround action in *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones* is speedy and full of life.

The slight lack of warmth and authority is an irritation at times, but the system's mix of accuracy and impact helps deliver plenty of excitement in compensation.

Stereo replay is not as proficient as multichannel, but that comes as no great surprise at this price. The delivery remains exciting, though, and feed the package fast-paced rock or hip-hop and it sounds fun. If you want a package for music as well as movies then save up and go for the £480 Mission m70s.

This is not the best-sounding package on these pages but it's keenly priced, stylish and loads of fun to listen to.

The Canton is fun but can sound a touch bright, so give a good, long warm up to tone it down

MISSION CINEMA m70
£480

★★★★★

FOR

Excellent sound, both in stereo and in multichannel form; great value for money

AGAINST

Not as small as some rivals, so takes up more of your living space

VERDICT

The Mission satellites are more than double the size of the Canton's but the payback is better and bigger sound

IT'S TIME TO increase both price and dimensions. The Mission Cinema m70 satellite speakers are much smaller than standard hi-fi speakers, but at 245mm-high they are over twice the height of the Canton's.

But there is method in Mission's apparent madness. The laws of physics mean the smaller the speaker the bigger the compromise. So up against smaller rivals, this package excels. It has greater overall authority, stronger outright punch, and sounds better as a result. The larger centre speaker makes a particularly welcome boost. The greater weight results in a more realsitic midrange, and in turn means voices sound more believable.

But it's with big, loud Hollywood blockbusters that this system really thrashes its teenier rivals. Spin *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones* and the battle scene sounds awesome. The room comes alive with weighty effects shifts, forceful laser-blast panning and crisp, accurately conveyed detonations.

Since four identical speakers are used front and rear, you get sonically believable surround effects, with sounds remaining consistent as they spin quickly around the listening room.

Home cinema is where this package excels but it also makes a decent stab at music. Smaller sized systems can sound tinny when it comes to CD replay but the Mission m70's richer sound means tunes sound closer to a more traditional hi-fi. You also get a more convincing soundstage than any other system we've tested in the last year.

And here's a bit of good news for those worried about lack of space. The bigger satellites mean extra muscle, so the m70 package gets away with a relatively small subwoofer. It uses just a 20cm drive unit but a larger-than-norm 100W amp means plenty of thump.

A winning compromise – the Missions are twice as tall as many satellite speakers, but sound twice as good as most

So it's not the most discreet system but if sound per pound is your bag, we reckon you won't care. It romps to stereo success and when it comes to a big-sounding home cinema experience it's streets ahead of smaller rivals. If you've got the room, the Mission m70 is a great surround speaker package.

KEF KHT2005.2
£800

★★★★★

FOR

Refined, well-integrated sound that's bit utterly composed and extremely exciting

AGAINST

A full-size speaker set up can beat it but this is the king of compact packages

VERDICT

Our 2003 Award-winner is small, effortlessly desirable and easy to install in any home: this is a real champion

FEAST YOUR EYES on our 2003 compact speaker package Product of the Year. They look so good that before you press play, they scream 'style over substance', but in reality it's a case of style *and* substance.

Since its 2001 introduction, the KEF KHT 2005 surround system has dominated this sector, and the revised 2005.2 is even better. To the naked eye, the new satellites look similar but some major internal revisions have improved both dynamics and power handling. The changes include new drive units, revised magnets, a new crossover and a host of other tweaks to help increase the available bandwidth from each little egg.

The new subwoofer offers a more dramatically different look. That's because, basically, KEF stuck the original design in the bin and launched an all-new design. It's now a sealed-box and uses a larger drive unit and far more amplifier guts to give it a vastly superior ouput. It fires out a room-shaking 250W of bass power and is significantly better than the old unit.

So, that's the engineering lecture over: let's talk sonics. Put simply, the KEF system plays anything extremely well. It has accurate timing and midrange clarity, plus a smooth, expansive and detailed top-end with bags of bite. This clear midrange means that dialogue is easy to follow. In other words, it's not a case of cranking the volume to hear quiet voices and then clasping your ears when the shouting starts.

Integration between the subwoofer and satellites is as good as we've heard, which helps to convince you that you are listening to a much larger-sized (and far more expensive) speaker arrangement.

Of course a full-size speaker offers greater sonic potential than this room-friendly package but this is a sonic compromise at its most acceptable.

The biggest improvement over the previous KEF package is found in the lower frequencies. The new sub is a corker and the bass on offer stuns. For an £800 package to deliver this sort of bass reach, slam and energy takes some doing.

This bass performance is of course great fun for boisterous movie scores but it's also good news for music fans. The sub's tight grip means musical bass and results in foot-tapping tunes. This package sets the standard for £1000 and under offerings.

Super-stylish looks coupled with seat-of-your pants sonic excitement make this the sub/sat package of choice

Nicam stereo TVs £400-£1000

Go for a standard stereo TV if you plan to add a surround system to your DVD player at a later date

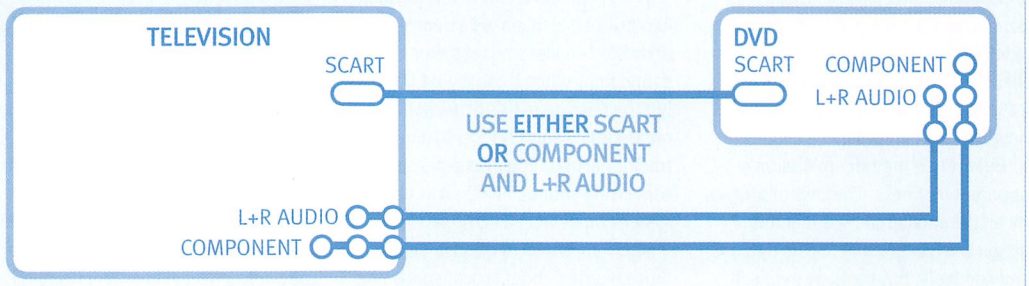
IF YOU HAVEN'T already got yourself a widescreen TV, then there's no time like the present. The latest 16:9 sets are equipped to offer significant increases in picture performance over their forebears, in particular thanks to the advent of the affordable flat-screen picture tube.

This shouldn't be confused with the flat TV, such as a plasma or LCD set; flat-screen simply means that the glass tube that makes up the TV's screen uses a flat outer face. This helps to reduce unwanted reflections (caused by lights or windows) that can intrude on your viewing pleasure, but more importantly, it also virtually eliminates 'distortions' to the image. A curved screen tube subtly bends images, especially towards each corner of the screen, but a flatscreen tube avoids this problem, thereby making it the screen of choice, especially if you plan to watch a lot of DVDs.

In this section, we're concentrating on stereo TVs. Obviously, you could simply connect your DVD player into a stereo set and leave it at that, but from the home cinema point of view, you'd be missing out on a lot of surround sound fun. We view sets like this as being ideal for use with an existing surround set-up, whether it's a home cinema in a box or a receiver and speakers set-up. Don't forget that you can easily connect the sound of your stereo TV into an external surround system too, and this can add a new dimension to 'off-air' TV viewing. It's worth looking out for a home cinema system that offers Dolby Pro-Logic II for just this purpose.

> "Don't forget that you can easily connect the sound of your stereo TV into a surround sound system too"

And this is how you set it up



PANASONIC TX-28PS1 £500

★★★★★

FOR

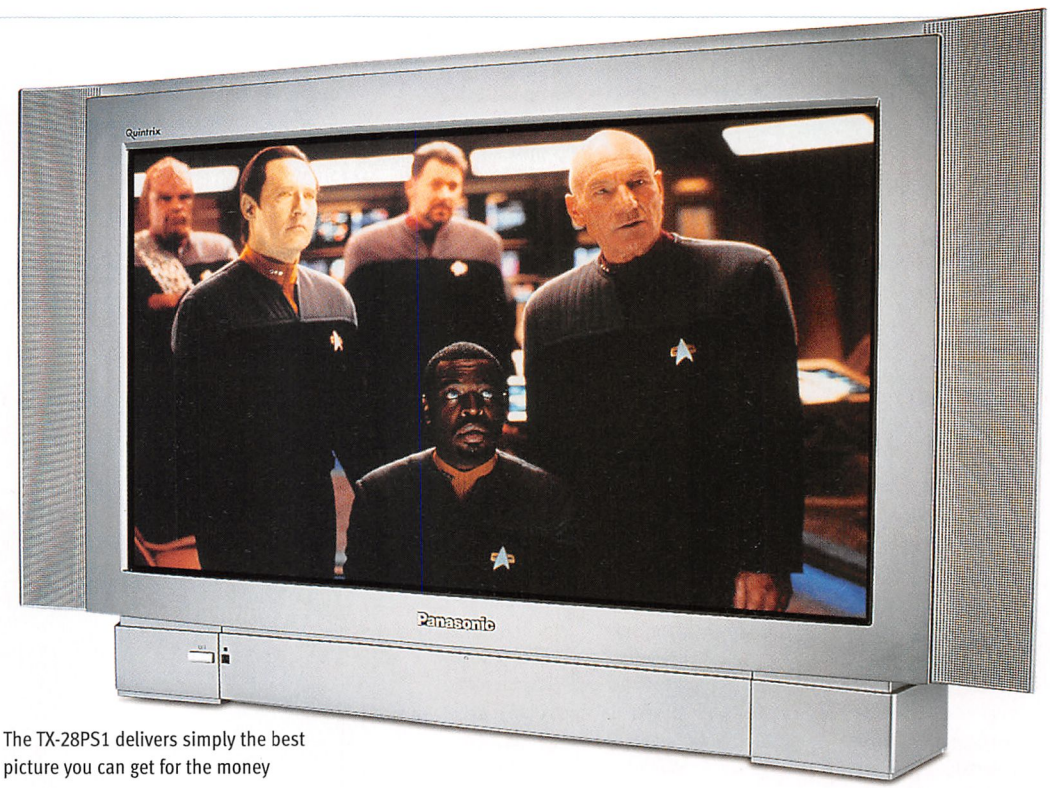
Brilliant picture, solid sonic performance, reasonable specification, great price

AGAINST

Nothing significant, although it would be nice to have component video inputs, too

VERDICT

The best affordable telly on the market, this is a terrific investment that will flatter any decent budget DVD player's picture



The TX-28PS1 delivers simply the best picture you can get for the money

PANASONIC HAS PUSHED the frontiers of budget TV performance with this set. Put simply, the TX-PS1 delivers an extraordinary picture for its very reasonable price.

It's a comparatively basic set, with a 16:9 Quintrix widescreen flat picture tube, 50Hz scan and Nicam stereo sound. It won't sell itself on the basis of socket provision either, but there's an acceptable degree of connectivity on offer. Two Scart sockets, one RGB-capable, are fitted as standard.

The TX-28PS1 doesn't pull up many trees in terms of sound quality when compared to rivals either. It's not bad, by any means, but the sonic performance lacks the midrange weight and realism of rivals

But the TX-28PS1 aims to impress with one thing and one thing only: the quality of its picture. That picture is truly staggering for the money, with blacks that are consistently deep and dense, and a colour balance that hits a sublime balance of realism and rich tones. Spin the DVD of *Treasure Planet* and the deep hues and crystal-clear definition belie the set's modest price tag with a richness and vitality that genuinely impress.

Sometimes a product hits the right balance, spot-on, and the TX-28PS1 is one of those. If you want a TV and your budget is £500 then our verdict is simple: look no further.

PANASONIC TX-32 DT4

£800

★★★★☆

FOR

Fine picture, respectable sound, internal digital television tuner flexibility

AGAINST

Only that some rival sets offer you a little more performance with DVD-Video watching

VERDICT

A good marriage of digital TV convenience and effective performance, although not quite a rival for the best in this class

DIGITAL TV WITHOUT the hassle of a separate digibox: if it sounds like a good idea, that's because it is. It's also the idea behind Panasonic's DT4 series of IDTVs (integrated digital televisions). The TX-32DT4 gives you easy access to Freeview services via the on-board digital tuner, and even has a modem connection allowing you to access online services.

The TX32-DT4 is fitted with a Quintrix F picture tube and 'Tau' widescreen technology, and features attractive though fairly standard silver styling. It has also been the recipient of a recent price cut, from £950 to £800.

In action the off-air picture is fine, with good line definition and minimal digital noise. With fast-moving action such as a car chase or a football match, this Panasonic tracks quick motion adeptly, with commendable clarity and a natural, realistic feel.

In DVD mode the TX-32DT4 creates deep blacks and impressive contrast, delivering the bleak scenes from *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* with the right blend of detail and atmosphere. The stereo sound is also effective, although for the money there are rivals that offer you a more convincing and natural midrange. All in all, then, this is a solid set that works well for the price.

JVC AV32T25

£800

★★★★☆

FOR

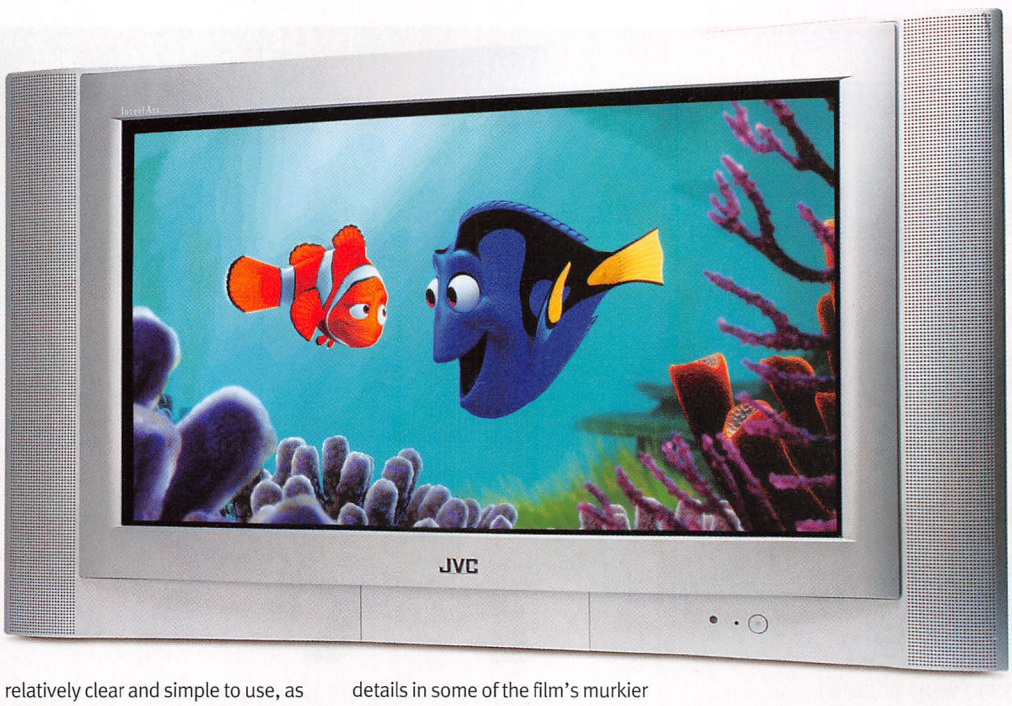
Solid picture in most regards, including good contrast levels; good stereo sound

AGAINST

Picture doesn't match the best in this class for detail, being slightly soft

VERDICT

A fine all-rounder, with very respectable stereo sound performance, and a largely good picture for the price



PART OF JVC'S InteriArt range, the AV32T25 combines attractive styling with reassuringly sturdy build quality. This is reflected by the stereo sound quality you get from the set's 20W speakers, which can deliver a full, rich and detailed sound.

There's a fairly standard range of connections on offer, including three Scart sockets (although only one offers RGB). The onscreen menus can be a little annoying: the process of set-up and picture adjustment isn't as intuitive as on many rival sets, although the remote handset is relatively clear and simple to use, as you'd hope from a company with JVC's considerable experience.

That said, get the JVC into action and it delivers a high standard of picture. Feed it with the DVD of *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* and it deals with the movie's dark scenes and fast movement with a commendable level of contrast and control. You can clearly make out the background details in some of the film's murkier scenes, a sure sign of a set that has well-sorted black and white levels.

The AV32T25 also delivers high levels of detail, although it doesn't, in absolute terms, have the sparkling line definition and realism that some of its rivals can muster. While it is admirably low on digital artefacts, the overall presentation tends toward being rather soft, with a less distinctive sense of background and foreground than can be found elsewhere for similar money. This is perhaps the only area of concern in terms of performance, which is why we'd suggest you also audition the TX-32DT4 from Panasonic (as well as the pricier Toshiba 32ZD26P). That said, you'll find this JVC at some terrifically tempting prices online...

Perfect systems £899-£1400

The secret of great home cinema for £750 is revealed here, plus three great value-for-money packages

PUT IT TOGETHER and what have you got? No, not 'bibbidi-bobbidi-boo', but something even better: perfect home cinema systems that won't break the bank.

How you configure your system is as much to do with your needs as the size of your pocket. You could combine our *Supertest* winning Toshiba player with a do-it-all surround sound TV such as the Panasonic TX-28PS5, and get complete Dolby Digital/Pro-Logic II sound from just two boxes for £750. Even connecting it up is simple – as we showed a few pages back, all you need is a Scart connection to carry the picture from DVD player to TV, and a digital feed for the sound to the set's processor.

Alternatively you could go down a route that boosts performance without costing you a fortune, adding a compact speaker package to the Toshiba, and using a simpler TV set to provide the pictures – again for £750.

> "The most flexible route – a receiver, TV and full-size speaker system – gives the best sound and vision"

But the most flexible route must involve a TV, a receiver and a full-size speaker system: this will give you the best sound, a great picture and the ability to upgrade your system later if you wish. Read on as we explain the three routes in more detail...

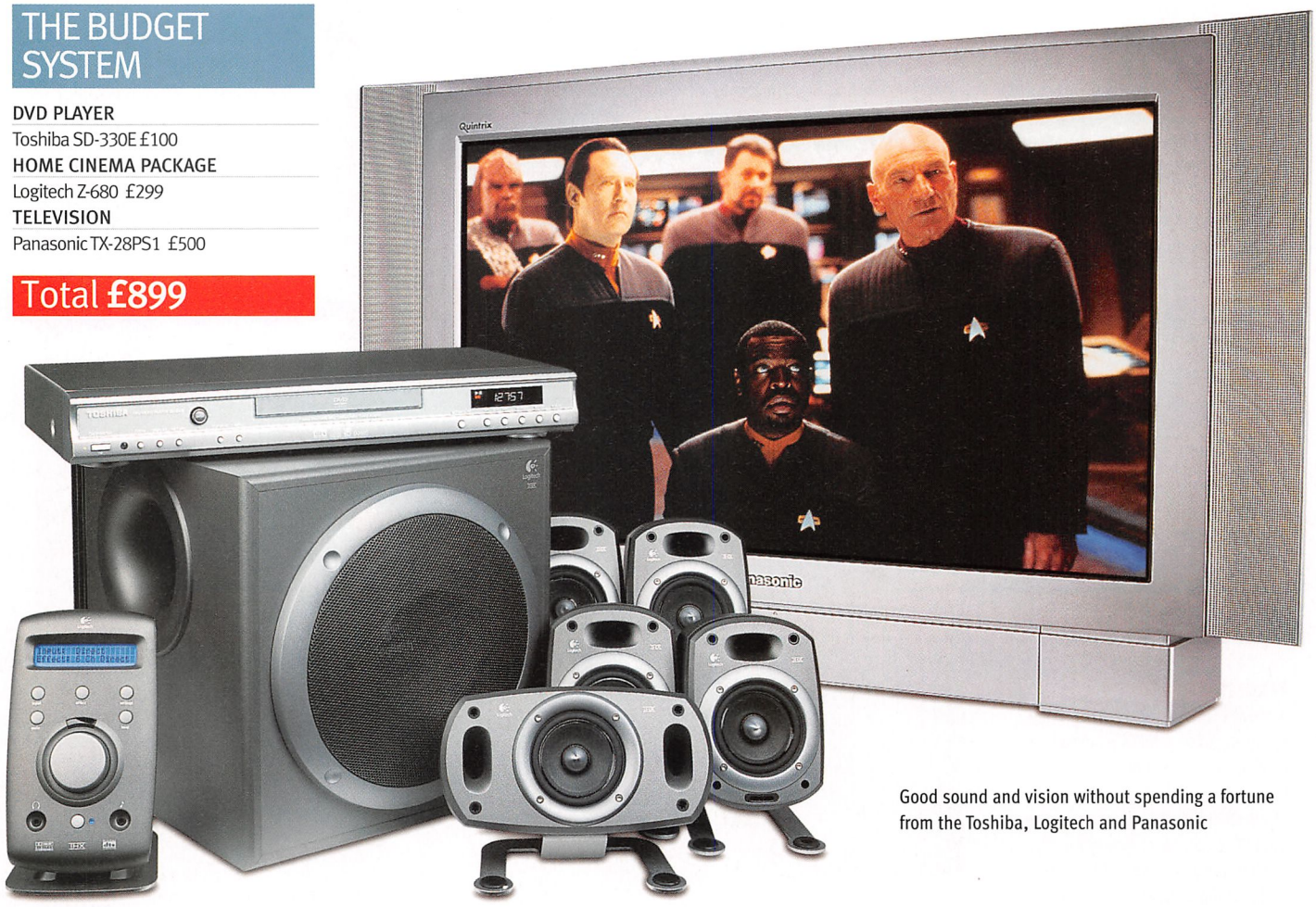
THE BUDGET SYSTEM

DVD PLAYER
Toshiba SD-330E £100

HOME CINEMA PACKAGE
Logitech Z-680 £299

TELEVISION
Panasonic TX-28PS1 £500

Total £899



Good sound and vision without spending a fortune from the Toshiba, Logitech and Panasonic

SO YOU WANT to do the home cinema thing on a tight budget? The answer is to combine the Toshiba with a compact speaker system such as that from Creative and you can have full home cinema for just £750. But for a better sound, we'd drop the Creative system in favour of the Logitech Z-680, which offers you everything you'll need on the sound side of things for just a little extra cash – £149 to be precise.

Packed into one box are the processor, a centre and four more speakers for front left and right and surround duties, plus an active subwoofer. All you have to do is take a digital feed from the Toshiba to the Logitech processor, connect up the speakers, and do a quick bit of set-up and tuning.

The Toshiba and Logitech work together well to give a sound that has good weight and definition, even if it's not to the standards of the more expensive conventional package opposite, and with the Toshiba in the TV stand and the Logitech processor perhaps sitting atop the set's cabinet, you have a complete 'stealth' home cinema system that won't fill the room with ugly boxes. We've even removed the grilles from the speakers, just like the manual suggested, for that 'pro audio' look. Mmmm – nice...

To handle the visual side of the equation we've used the 28in Panasonic, winner of a Best Buy in the 2003 WHAT HI-FI? Sound and Vision Awards, and an absolute steal at just £500. It produces a crisp picture with fine contrast and detail and, in truth, there seems little reason to spend much more. Add in the Toshiba player and Logitech speakers, and you have a fine budget set-up.

THE CONVENIENCE SYSTEM

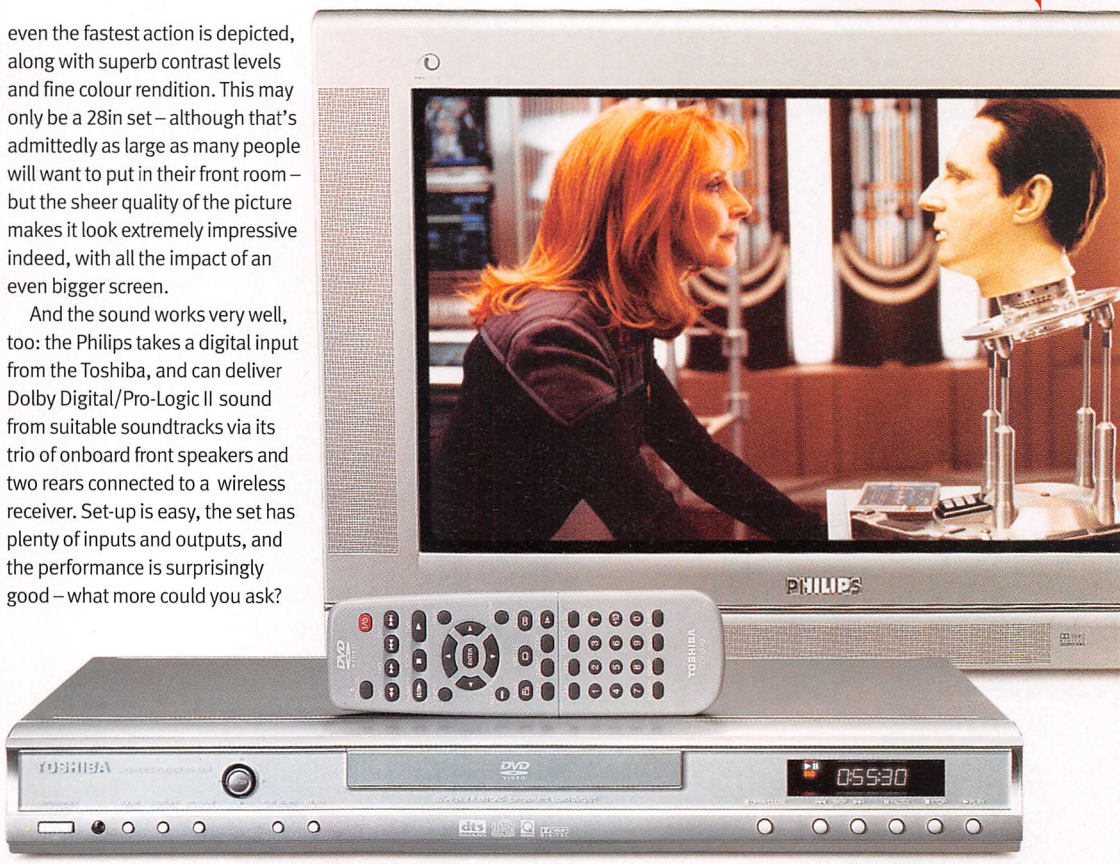
DVD PLAYER
Toshiba SD-330E £100
TELEVISION
Philips 28PW9618 £1200

Total £1300

HOME CINEMA DOESN'T get any simpler than this and, once again, it can be really cheap. Our favourite Toshiba DVD player could be mated to the Panasonic TX-28PS5 for just £750, but this Philips redefines standards in this sector of the market. As well as a fine picture it offers a sound that's more than respectable, plus the great benefit of wireless rear speakers to keep the clutter down. If you want home cinema that's as stylish as it is easy to set up, this could be the solution for you.

Philips isn't too sold on the benefits of progressive scan, preferring its own Pixel Plus technology to boost detail and smooth motion on the screen. It works here to breathtaking effect, giving punch and power to the way even the fastest action is depicted, along with superb contrast levels and fine colour rendition. This may only be a 28in set – although that's admittedly as large as many people will want to put in their front room – but the sheer quality of the picture makes it look extremely impressive indeed, with all the impact of an even bigger screen.

And the sound works very well, too: the Philips takes a digital input from the Toshiba, and can deliver Dolby Digital/Pro-Logic II sound from suitable soundtracks via its trio of onboard front speakers and two rears connected to a wireless receiver. Set-up is easy, the set has plenty of inputs and outputs, and the performance is surprisingly good – what more could you ask?



Plenty of power from our receiver/ speakers system

THE PERFORMANCE SYSTEM

DVD PLAYER
Toshiba SD-330E £100
TELEVISION
Panasonic TX-28PS1 £500
RECEIVER
Yamaha RX-V440RDS £300
SPEAKER PACKAGE
Mission Cinema m70 £480

Total £1380

YOU CAN'T BEAT a conventional home cinema system when it comes to outright performance and flexibility for your money, and this set-up, using components from four of the leading names in AV technology, offers a huge amount for what is still relatively sensible money.

We don't need the surround ability of the Philips TV used in the system above – the receiver and speakers are going to take over those duties – so we're back to the excellent 28in Panasonic set, saving us a useful £700 to put towards the amplification and speakers. And that saving almost pays for Yamaha's bargain 6.1-channel receiver and Mission's fine m70 speaker package which, with the addition of one extra speaker, will let you do the complete 6.1-channel thang if required.

However, even in 5.1-channel modes the system shines: the big, rich presentation of the Yamaha is well suited to the fast, dynamic and detailed presentation of the Mission speakers, and though the RX-V440RDS doesn't have a massive power output, at least by the standards of some of today's home cinema monsters, it uses its 65w per channel to good effect, giving a sound that's as powerful and exciting as it is well-controlled.

With a system like this in harness, it's not hard to see what makes the Toshiba player so special: the picture looks excellent on the Panasonic, while the Yamaha gets its teeth into the clean digital feed from the player to recreate excellent surround from Dolby Digital soundtracks or those using DTS encoding. There's crunching action and fine channel steering, as adept when effects are flying as it is with subtle ambience.

Yes, this system takes up rather more space than the set-up above, but it's worth it – you won't regret buying it for a moment.

spendor

Next step speakers

If you want to upgrade your budget system to a more classy combo, here's the speaker solution

SKY-HIGH HOUSE prices mean more and more people are improving their existing habitat instead of moving home. But what does this mean to the world of hi-fi? Well, it means the upgrade is king, and this helps explain the explosion in mid-price kit offerings.

Owners of budget systems are building new hi-fi combinations costing £1500 upwards, and, when it comes to speakers, they're spoilt for choice. We've assembled a known trio of top standmounters and a familiar triple of fantastic floorstanders. Plus we introduce a couple of promising newcomers: the Quad 12L standmounter and the Monitor Audio Bronze B6 tower. They both cost just £500 a pair and boast impressive siblings: Monitor Audio's Bronze B2 is our 2003 budget Best Buy and the Quad 11L is our reigning speaker Product of the Year.

But the debutantes face a tough task. The opposition includes Dynaudio's awesome Audience 52 plus a clutch of five star winners. It's a cracking line up and this one's going to be as tight as Pavarotti's suitcase.

WHAT'S ON TEST?

AVI
NEUTRON III
£500

DYNAUDIO
AUDIENCE 52
£624

MONITOR AUDIO
BRONZE B6
£500

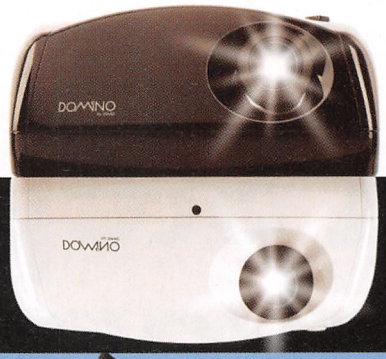
MONITOR AUDIO
SILVER S6
£600

QUAD
12L
£500

SPENDOR
S3
£600

TANNOY
DC2
£649

WHARFEDALE
PACIFIC EVO 30
£650



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SIM2 Multimedia

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AVI Neutron III

£500 ★★★★☆

FOR

Beautiful midrange; tip-top resolution; control, compact size

AGAINST

Its ultimate bass depth tends to fall short of bigger rivals

VERDICT

These space-savers don't take over your room, but they look after the sonic duties with skill and authority

FIRST OUT OF the box is the AVI Neutron III. And it's a small box – very small. To get an idea of this speaker's size, take a look at this page – the Neutron III is around 2cm shorter than the height of this magazine.

Place one up against a giant Wharfedale Evo 30 and you half expect a white towel, thrown from AVI's Gloucestershire headquarters, to flutter into our listening room. But have no fear: the Neutron pair may appear vulnerable, but charge them up and they punch well above their weight. And for best results position the Neutron IIIs about 20cm from the rear wall – this helps the little speakers produce a scale of sound that astonishes.

A significant factor behind this impressive performance is the gorgeous-sounding Danish-built tweeter. AVI says this unit costs three- to five-times the norm for a monitor this price and the company uses it on all its loudspeakers. All this expense would be pointless without comparably capable bass and the 5in doped paper cone makes the effort worthwhile. The two units integrate extremely well and though the tweeter is the star, the bass driver never sounds out of place.

But let's be clear, if you are looking for buckets of deep bass, the AVIs are not for you. The laws of physics mean these boxes will never match the floorstanders in this test for quantity of lower frequencies but when it comes to quality of bass, they are more than able. Spin this month's favourite bass tester – *Ennio Morricone Remixes Volume 1* from Compost Records and the dubbed-up spaghetti western themes belt out with fine timing, composure and authority. The AVIs offer strict control and, no matter how complex the tunes, they present the sound in a coherent manner.

And if you love midrange you'll love the manner in which the Neutron III's care for voices. The female vocals in Hakan Lidbo's mix of *Alla Serenita* sound authentic and the rich tones overflow with huge spoonfuls of sweet honey. Stunning.

Lend the little AVIs your ear and they repay with pure, unbridled quality. As all-round speakers we award them four stars, but for small rooms they're a leading choice.

> "These are very small speakers: in fact the Neutron III is about 2cm shorter than the height of this magazine"

Dynaudio Audience 52

£624 ★★★★★

FOR

Hard-hitting bass; refinement; consistently enjoyable presentation; love to party

AGAINST

Timing occasionally falters in comparison to some highly capable rivals

VERDICT

Classy speakers with an Award-winning heritage that will grace any mid-price set-up

WHEN IT COMES to Awards, Dynaudio's Audience speakers behave like Olympian Sir Steve Redgrave. First the Audience 50 Mk 2 then the Audience 52 and latterly the Audience 52 real-wood veneer version seen here – they've all demonstrated an endless appetite for winning, consistently gobbling up gongs at our annual Awards. These boxes are current holders of the £500-£999 speaker Best Buy.

So, why do we regard the 52s so highly? In short, musicality: the 52s love all genres, and from Mahler's dynamic *Symphony No 6* to Lizz Wright's more subtle *Salt*, presentation impresses.

In our book, good dynamics equal added interest and this is where the speakers excel. The difference between loud and quiet moments – as the Dynaudios expertly demonstrate with classical crescendos – stuns. Think of how a cheap radio speaker hardly varies in level and imagine the complete opposite: that's how these speakers sound.

Bass performance is similarly assured. Hip-hop sets such as Mary J Blige's *Love & Life* thump along and drums sound defined and hard-hitting. In a straight bass-weight fight the 52s whip the AVI Neutron III's, but to be fair the Dynaudios are bigger all round than their £500 rivals.

This weight and control means these units are ideal party speakers: crank up the volume and your ears will admit defeat long before the powerful Dynaudios surrender to the devil of distortion. Place them in free space, on a good pair of stands, and the soundstage is especially roomy and the 28mm soft dome tweeter and 17cm polypropylene driver integrate enjoyably. No frequency range stands out from the others, and treble avoids harshness while bass avoids boom.

Our only criticism concerns timing. Play the brilliantly demanding Indian-music soundtrack from *Devdas*, and the tricky beats occasionally fox the Dynaudios. But this observation must be taken in context – the 52s are only exposed by the very best timers like the AVIs and Quads.

Overall the Dynaudio Audience 52s are champion speakers. Their sonic character is ever so slightly forgiving but this is what makes thousands of listeners warm to them.

> "These are ideal party speakers: crank up the volume and your ears will admit defeat long before the 52s do"

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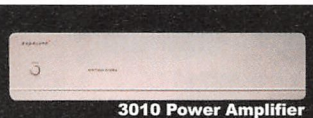
3010 Power Amplifier

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exposure
high fidelity engineering
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Monitor Audio Bronze B6

£500 ★★★☆☆

FOR

Huge levels of bass; build quality; commanding looks

AGAINST

Inability to reign in lower frequencies spoils overall presentation

VERDICT

The disappointing B6 takes some of the shine off the Award-winning Bronze family

THE MONITOR AUDIO B6 is an ideal example of the importance of hearing before you buy. Based on family ability the B6 should stun: its B2 brother is our reigning budget speaker king and the Monitor Audio B4 surround sound package is a cracker. So does that mean you can buy a pair of B6s without a demo? Certainly not. Black sheep is a bit strong, but what we have here is the Ralf of the Schumacher siblings.

Initially the B6 gives the impression of good value for money. The commanding tower reaches up almost one metre and the front baffle contains an array of drivers, plus a front port. Round the back you find biwire terminals and a further port. Add solid build – the B6 is built from 18mm thick MDF – and a pleasant finish and you have the makings of a fine speaker.

So why four drivers? Well, a C-CAM tweeter handles the highest frequencies; directly below a single MMP Mk2 driver looks after upper bass and midrange, and finally the two units below are on strictly bass-only duties.

The result is a lot of bass – but sadly only in terms of quantity, not quality. Mary J Blige's deep hip-hop beats swamp smaller rooms and even in larger rooms the B6 doesn't possess the control or punch to turn this mass of low-end information into a musically accurate presentation. The B6s may function more effectively in a home cinema set-up where a competent sub could handle much of the bass, but for stereo listening the result is poor. Insert the bungs and the problem lessens, but in turn this taints the overall sound. As a rule, if you need to bung speakers, buy a different pair.

Higher up the frequency range the B6 is more capable. There's a reasonable level of information on offer and the C-CAM unit avoids harshness – on the condition you give it a good warm up – and midrange is passable but not hugely realistic.

But with bass-management issues this severe, it doesn't matter how good the midrange or treble units sound – they'll always be dragged down by the twin drivers plodding below them. The B6s seem destined to remain in the shadow of their more able siblings.

> "The B6 doesn't have the control or punch to turn the mass of bass it products into a musically accurate presentation"

Monitor Audio Silver S6

£600 ★★★★☆

FOR

Glorious build and finish; good detail in midrange and refined treble

AGAINST

Occasionally clumsy bass can engulf the enjoyable treble and midrange

VERDICT

Very good floorstanders with lots going for them, but take care with that big bass

SO AFTER A disappointing debut from the Bronze B6 it's over to the Silver S6 to polish up the family Monitor Audio reputation. And straight from the box the outlook improves. At only £100 extra over the B6, this speaker offers a significant step up in visual stature, and its classy cabinet rivals the impressive Quad in the quality-of-finish stakes. The twin rear-ported unit also feels good and solid – this in part is due to the extensive internal bracing – and this rigidity reduces cabinet colouration and produces a cleaner and more incisive sound.

Like the B6 it's a two-and-a-half way design – the bottom unit lends a hand with lower frequencies – but the S6 employs one less driver. These are not the same units found in the Bronze series though. There is a specific Silver 'S' tweeter, again based on Monitor Audio's C-CAM Gold Dome, and all three drivers use ceramic-coated metal diaphragms to improve rigidity without adding weight: the idea is to improve detail resolution and dynamics. The larger drivers also use a new rubber surround with a flush edge – the intention is not only to allow slimmer, more attractive cabinet designs but also to present a smooth, more natural sound.

Up and running, and placed in free space the S6s sound the more accomplished of the two Monitor Audio entrants. A crucial reason for the difference in performance is the superior bass on offer. Yes, there's one less driver but there's still plenty of weight and lower frequencies are reasonably tight. In our opinion there is still a lack of control – especially with Mary J Blige's hip-hop – but in a bigger room the problem is more bearable.

However, the main attraction of this floorstander is the insight on offer at higher frequencies. During Mahler's *Symphony 6* the S6s manage to unravel the musical message and remain unruffled when the pieces are at their most complex. That driver array is also pretty nifty with vocals and Mary J's voice sounds rich and believable.

Good timing and decent attack means the Silver S6 adds up to a very impressive floorstander for the money. If you can live with the occasionally heavy-handed bass these Monitor Audios are a bright prospect.

> "The S6s manage to unravel the musical message and stay unruffled when pieces are at their most complex"

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Quad 12L

£500 ★★★★★

FOR

Rock-hard bass; dynamics; detailed delivery; awesome depth of field; build and finish

AGAINST

Unforgiving, what you play is what you hear

VERDICT

Like the 11L, this Quad offers stunning value for money. Massively transparent but a joy with the right kit and recordings

YOU'RE HAVING AN impromptu footie match in the park and it turns out one of the opposition's related to a famous player – and he's a bit handy, too. Nothing worse. This is how the other speakers in this test must feel about the majestic-looking Quad 12L.

For those unfamiliar with the Quad's sibling, the £379 11L is our 2003 speaker Product of the Year. It's a stunner but if we are being hypercritical we could ask for a touch more bass weight. Well, a larger cabinet tends to mean greater bass weight and the 12L offers extra volume... so bring on the test.

The 12L's mid/bass driver features a resin-impregnated Kevlar diaphragm. The idea is the resin stiffens the cone, while the inherent self-damping properties of woven Kevlar keeps cone resonance to a minimum. This unit is 1.5in larger than the 11L's mid/bass driver, and the tweeter used is found in both versions.

But, as we know (see Monitor Audio's Bronze B6) one successful speaker doesn't guarantee a winning range. Not always, but in action, the 12L is awesome. Move the speakers away from the wall – this gives the twin rear port room to breathe – and the depth of field is such you can almost believe you are listening in surround sound. Excellent.

And remember our minor moan concerning the 11L's bass weight? Well, big bruv solves that one – the 12L dives deeper and carries extra force. It falls just short of the depth of its stand-mounter rival, the Dynaudio Audience 52, but delivery is rock hard. Hakan Lidbo's Morricone remix belts out with precision timing and the monitors handle even the devilishly tricky beats from *Devdas*'s soundtrack with skill.

Dynamics are wonderful and detail resolution is best in class – definitely a case of uncovering nuances other rivals miss. The midrange is rich and informative, though falls just short of the 11L's abilities. We reckon that's the trade off for the extra bass weight.

Our only word of warning concerns possible partners. The Quads are hugely transparent, unforgiving speakers – in other words a bad recording sounds bad – so try to avoid lean or similarly characterised electronics. Another Quad, another L of a speaker.

> "Dynamics are wonderful and detail resolution is best in class – these uncover nuances other rivals miss"

Spendor S3

£600 ★★★★½

FOR

Transparency; tonal balance; refinement; informative delivery; neat build and looks

AGAINST

Can't match the bass weight of larger-sized rivals; lose composure at high volumes

VERDICT

The little S3s make up for their sonic limitations with a stimulating, natural-sounding performance

HERE'S ANOTHER DWARF among the giants. At 31cm-tall the Spendor S3 is marginally larger than the AVI Neutron III, but we're looking for the best sound-per-pound all-rounder here so things don't look too rosy from the outset. But we guarantee that many of you will still love this speaker. These fans are unlikely to include hip-hop aficionados or those who love to crank up their amp but, if you enjoy natural-sounding voices and acoustic instruments, read on.

Other Spendor lovers will have smaller listening rooms – the closed box design means it is less fussy about positioning than even the neat AVI Neutron III. But for best results place the S3s open out into the room and on top of solid speaker stands. Choose platforms carefully though – the Spendors' compact bottoms can slip between the spikes. Ouch.

The S3's 13cm homopolymer driver sits below a 19mm soft-dome tweeter. Round the back of the cabinet the terminals accept biwire cables. The S3's textured cherry wood veneer is gorgeous to the touch and build quality is superb if not class-leading.

Presentation is also of a model standard. That tweeter digs up masses of information and its impressive transparency means the difference in recording quality between discs is obvious. This honest character is similar to the Quad 12L's but the S3 is more forgiving and lends the music a slightly warm, loving touch. As we promised, the little boxes love vocals and acoustic instruments - spin *Silence*, the closing track from Lizz Wright's debut album, *Salt*, and the guitarist's finger movements sound glorious and Wright's deep, distinctive voice contains bags of emotion and a rich, chocolate coating. This type of music finds the Spendors at their best – and their best is highly impressive.

Okay, it doesn't provide the low-end punch of the Quad 12L, and its bass weight falls far short of the floor-standers here, but the lower frequencies the S3 offers are taut and full of detail. And if you want to party all night then head over to the Dynaudios – the S3s lose composure at high volumes but otherwise these little stars offer a wonderfully refined and informative presentation.

> "The little S3s love vocals and acoustic instruments – this type of music finds the Spendors at their very best"

Pioneer sound.vision.soul

How many colours make the perfect sunset?

PDP-434HDE

PURE vision

The new Pure Vision Plasma TV from Pioneer with Super Clear Drive technology can display more than 1 billion colours. Delivering a stunning brightness and contrast, you'll be captivated by the depth of each picture. What's more, its revolutionary, Dynamic High-Definition Converter transforms standard images into crystal clear, high-definition imagery. Available in 43" or 50" models, its slim, elegant design is as inspiring as its performance. Use it for television, movies, games and the Internet. Or try the Home Gallery feature for displaying your personal collection of digital photos. This is home entertainment like you never imagined. All you need now is the perfect sunset.

http://www.pioneer.co.uk

Tannoy DC2

£649 ★★★★½

FOR

Expansive soundstage; big, bold presentation; frequency range; exciting

AGAINST

Opposite ends of the frequency range occasionally invasive

VERDICT

Take care with partners – the DC2s won't thank you for harsh electronics – but these animals love to party

THE DC2'S AREN'T exactly creepy, but its 25mm titanium-domed Super Tweeter staring at you from its time-aligned pod takes a bit of getting used to. And a keen eye will spot another tweeter hiding in the centre of the woofer. Let's summarise what's going on. The SuperTweeter extends the frequency range over 50KHz – especially good news for fans of SACD and DVD-A – and the DC2 woofer is Tannoy's Dual Concentric unit, which attempts to deliver an extra-wide imaging 'sweet spot' and create an expansive soundstage.

And there's more. The rear panel sports biwire terminals, including an earth, plus a rear port. So no shortage of hi-tech ideas and no complaints about build or finish, either. The front of the tower is dressed in a grey cloth and cabinet quality is good.

Now to set up. Ideally, place the DC2s in free space, in a large room: in smaller spaces the bass weight can dominate and spoil your listening. Next, give the towers a good run in – that tweeter combo needs a good workout to brush off a slightly harsh tinge.

Once up to speed, the Tannoys impress – if the Spendors aren't for you, these speakers may be. You can crank up the volume to absurd levels before the DC2s buckle – and hold on to your coffee mug if you're spinning bass-heavy hip-hop: these speakers pack a big punch.

Higher up the frequency range delivery contains good levels of detail and though not quite a match for the Quads, you feel the tweeter arrangement is working well. Midrange is also good – not quite Spendor good, but for a big floorstander the results are above average. As promised, the soundstage is expansive and the speakers present complex pieces from Mahler's *Symphony No 6* with finesse.

Overall the Tannoys are a serious floorstander option, but due to the DC2's occasionally excessive treble, you must take care with aggressive or bright-sounding kit. You should also think carefully about the size of your listening room – is it big enough for these bold towers? Otherwise the DC2s are well worth a listen.

> "Hold on tight to your coffee mug if you're spinning bass-heavy hip-hop: these speakers pack a big punch"

Wharfedale Pacific Evo 30

£650 ★★★★★

FOR

Dynamic range; big yet punchy bass; upmarket looks; vast soundstage

AGAINST

Need space to sound their best, otherwise bass can take over

VERDICT

Fantastic value for money – if you have the space, give the Wharfedales a whirl and be bowled over by their dynamic presentation

WHARFEDALE'S PACIFIC EVO 30 is no normal floorstander. The speaker designer's holy grail is to combine the deep bass available from a tower, together with the control, speed and midrange excellence of a top stand-mounter. Well King Arthur's designers should keep searching, but the Evo 30's a step in the right direction.

So why does this Wharfedale receive such praise? The answer may lie in the curved real-wood veneer cabinet which, along with bracing and damping, attempts to improve midrange performance. Wharfedale says the curved shape reduces standing waves – sound produced behind the cone that bounces back and forth – and therefore cuts cabinet resonance.

And then there's the driver arrangement: the Kevlar drivers use a bi-directional weave in a further effort to absorb standing waves. And in an act to improve dispersion, and benefit from the strongest point of the cabinet, the tweeter housing is sunk into the top of the unit. We could go on ad-infinitum but the most blatant reason is the Evo 30 sounds excellent.

As with the other floorstanders here, this big monitor needs room to breathe – freespace is most desirable – and biwire for best results. The speaker takes whatever musical genre you chuck at it. Spin Mary J Blige's hip-hop and it pounds out hard-hitting low frequencies, and timing is the most accurate of the floorstanders on test. But the Evo 30 is not just a big-hitter: the drivers integrate superbly and possess the finesse to present the delicate moments from Lizz Wright's jazz debut with care and attention.

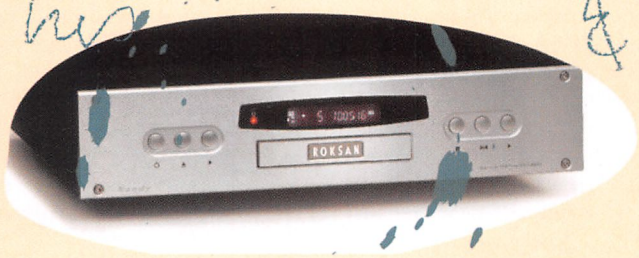
And if you love dynamic classical, hold on to your trilby. The Evo 30 reaches high and bends down low to paint a far-reaching sonic picture. Excitement is high in the agenda. Up against the Quad 12L this floorstander is still second best in the midrange, but nevertheless, vocals contain plenty of emotion and detail. Intakes of breath are deftly relayed.

At this price point floorstanders have a tendency to overwhelm with bass but give the Evo 30s plenty of room and they go a long way to convincing that size matters.

> "The Evo 30 pounds out hard-hitting bass, and its timing is the most accurate of the floorstanders on test here"

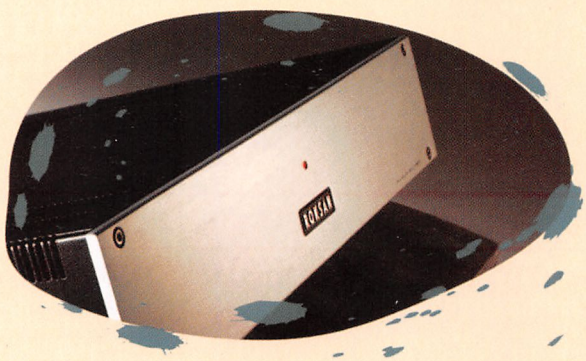
What do you want?

Buy this...



& Buy this

& Buy this



Kandy

- **DVD**
- **Integrated amplifier**
- **Stereo amplifier**

HENLEY

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Tel: 01235 511166 | Email: sales@henleydesigns.co.uk
www.henleydesigns.co.uk

Winner Quad 12L

£500 ★★★★★

LET'S DEAL WITH the test disappointment first. The Monitor Audio Bronze B6 promised much but didn't deliver. The flabby bass was a big let down and in this illustrious company it looks out of its depth. Fortunately the Silver S6 restored some of Monitor Audio's pride. It looks great and, so long as you keep a reign on that bass, sounds even better.

The Tannoy is also an impressive unit that, with the correct electronics, excites as much as it rocks. But if these mighty towers are too big for your room, the little Spendor and tiny AVI offer neat solutions.

These two are very different in character – the AVI is the in-your-face Eminem and the Spendor is the more laid back Barry White – but both are highly capable.

The final test verdict, though, came down to the three five-star speakers. The Wharfedale Pacific Evo 30 impresses with its combination of deep, yet tight, bass and its midrange is a match for most rival standmounters. But for ultimate sound per pound it has to be the Quad 12Ls or the Dynaudio Audience 52s.

We can imagine lots of buyers opting for the Dynaudio's slightly more forgiving character but the Quad's 12L speaker – like its Quad 11L baby brother – is simply stunning value for money. Match it with complementary stereo electronics and the result is mid-price perfection.

	AVI Neutron III	Dynaudio Audience 52	Monitor Audio B6	Monitor Audio S6
WHAT'S IT GOT?				
Price	£499	£624	£500	£600
Type	Standmount	Standmount	Floorstander	Floorstander
Best position	20cm from wall	Free space	Free space	Free space
Frequency range (+/-3dB)	100Hz-23kHz (@ +or- 2dB)	52Hz-24kHz	34Hz-25kHz	38Hz-25KHz
Sensitivity (dB/w/m)	87	86	91	91
Nominal impedance (ohms)	8	4	6	6
Reflex port	Rear	Rear	Front	Twin rear
Terminals	Single	Single	Biwire	Biwire
HxWxD (cm)	27x14x21	33x20x26	97x20x30	85x19x25
WHAT WE GAVE IT...				
Sound	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆
Build	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★★
Compatibility	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
VERDICT	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆

	Quad 12L TEST WINNER	Spendor S3	Tannoy DC2	Wharfedale Pacific Evo 30
WHAT'S IT GOT?				
Price	£500	£600	£649	£650
Type	Standmounter	Standmounter	Floorstander	Floorstander
Best Position	Free space	Free space	Free space	Free space
Frequency range (+/-3dB)	45Hz-24kHz	80Hz-20kHz	34Hz-51kHz	35Hz-20kHz
Sensitivity (dB/w/m)	88	85	89	89
Nominal impedance (ohms)	6	8	8	6
Reflex port	Rear	None	Rear	Front
Terminals	Biwire	Biwire	Biwire	Biwire
HxWxD (cm)	35x21x25	30.5x16.5x19	97x21x29	88x23x40
WHAT WE GAVE IT...				
Sound	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★★
Build	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★★
Compatibility	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★★
VERDICT	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★★

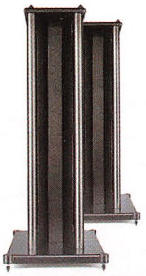
Partners for the winner

The ideal kit to put with the Quads

Partington Super Dreadnought stands

£140 ★★★★★ Awards 2003

Winning speakers deserve the very best support. Peter Partington's Award-winning stands firm up the Quad 12L's bass and make the most of that awesome midrange



Roksan Kandy MkIII CD Player

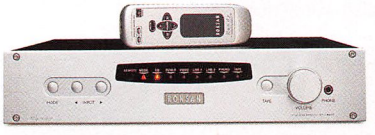
£550 ★★★★★ September 2003

It's tempting to go for the excellent Cyrus 6, but the gutsier and more authoritative Roksan is a better bet for the transparent 12Ls

Roksan Kandy MkIII Amplifier

£550 ★★★★★ Awards 2003

This amp not only matches the CD player, but has the character and power to glean optimum performance from the Quads



We tested them with (price-comparable system) **Amplifier** Unison Research Unico; **CD Player** Meridian 507; cables and interconnects Merlin, QED and Atlas **(reference system)** **Amplifier** Krell KRC-3/FPB 400CX; **speakers** Wilson Benesch Discoverys, PMC IB2; **cables and interconnects** QED and Atlas

The future of hi-fi in your home?

Look, Ma, no wires! Yamaha's MusicCAST wireless multiroom system is here, and it's every bit as good as we'd hoped it was going to be. Welcome to the future of home audio systems...

Yamaha MusicCAST | server £1800; client £600; speakers for client £100 | ★★★★★

FOR

Flexibility; ease of use; sounds good, too; just so cool we can't resist it

AGAINST

Time lag between server and client; get the feeling we're struggling to find something?

VERDICT

If this is the future of hi-fi, count us in: it offers fuss-free multiroom music for less

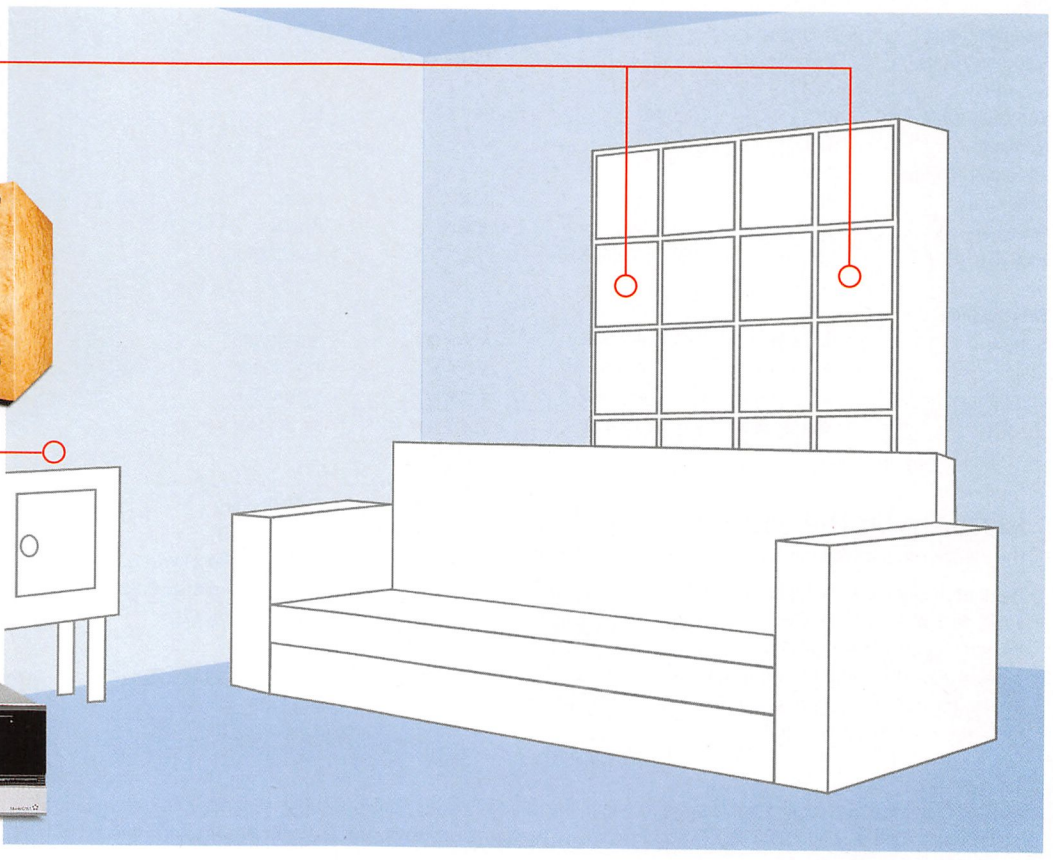
STIRLING MOSS. AUSTIN Powers. James Bond. They're some of the names that spring to mind when the subject of multiroom systems crops up: it's that bachelor-pad concept of pressing a button and music pouring forth from concealed speakers around the house. But until now, getting such whole-house entertainment's involved serious building work to install speakers and chase signal, control and power cables into the walls. A properly installed system could put you into five-figure territory and involve a good deal of domestic disruption.

Wireless networking solves that at a stroke. With a hub or server plugged into your main hi-fi system and remote wireless client units dotted around, it's possible to transmit music – and in the not too distant future, video – throughout the house. This was a hot topic at this year's IFA home entertainment show in Germany, with most of the big names showing systems of this kind. But the product grabbing the headlines is Yamaha's MusicCAST, simply because it's so neat. And with prices at a very sensible level, this could be one of the products that drags the whole wireless multiroom system concept out of the realm of early adopters and gadget freaks and into the real world.

Yamaha's CDR-HD1300 is our current Award-winning CD/hard-disk recorder, and there are similarities between MusicCAST's MCX-1000 server and that machine. Both use 80GB hard drives (although the MCX-1000 can be upgraded all the way to 2TB), rip CDs to the drive at high speed, and will also burn CD-R/RW discs if required.

The server holds music in both uncompressed PCM and MP3 format – the former for play out via the analogue terminals on the rear, the latter for transmission to the client units, although one client at a time can also access the full-resolution PCM datastream. The drive can hold around 100 hours of music like this, or 1000 hours

The Living Room



Speakers

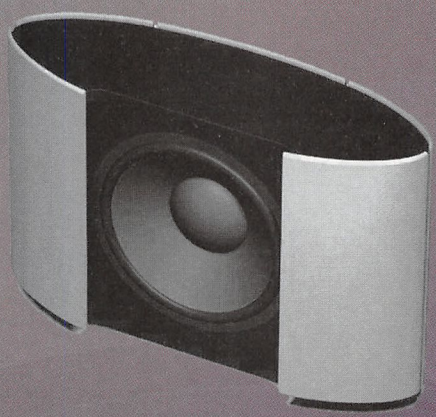
The choice of speakers and amp in your main room is up to you – since the server is used with your main system, it can play through any amp and speakers you like, acting as a digital recorder, CD copier and above all a huge musical jukebox for your set-up.

The Server

Plugs into your main hi-fi system, and allows playback of music through that system, or streaming of other sources to the client units around the house. And if you have a Yamaha receiver, the system will also control that.

YAMAHA
DIGITAL AUDIO TERMINAL MCX-A10
ON
TIMER
Play Menu
Artists
Albums
Genres
All Songs
Playlists
MENU
PUSH SELECT
PLAY INFO
PHONES
MusicCAST

Vienna



The new Schonberg series by Vienna Acoustics

Breathtaking beauty in an ordinary world

Distributed by: Henley Designs, 01235 511166, www.henleydesigns.co.uk, info@henleydesigns.co.uk

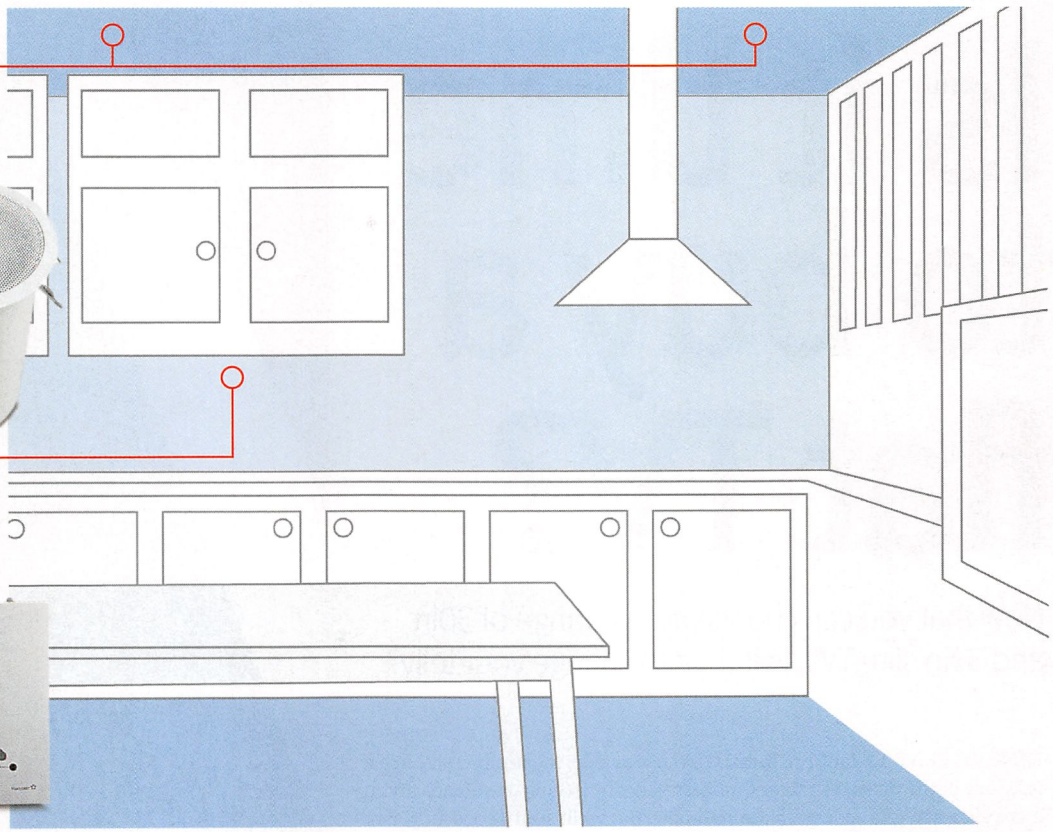
The Kitchen

Ceiling Speakers

Thanks to the fact the MusicCAST Client unit has built-in amplification, it could easily be connected to ceiling loudspeakers in locations such as kitchens. Most speaker companies have suitable models, ranging from the basic to the very exotic – this is KEF's new Ci80, which uses a tiny Uni-Q driver and costs £50.

Client Unit

The client unit can be wall-mounted or used on its own stand, and its compact dimensions make it perfect for use in rooms where space is tight, such as kitchens. And if you have a kitchen TV, the sound from that can be fed into the client, too.



if you only use MP3 encoding, though this depends on the data rate used – the server offers a choice of 160-, 240- or 320kbps. The server can sit in the kit rack with the rest of your main system and stream the output from your CD player, tuner or whatever to the client units. There's also an internet connection so the server's Gracenote cddb CD recognition software can be updated – this provides title, artist and track information as music is stored.

The MCX-A10 client units combine a wireless receiver with a control interface and stereo digital amplification, and can either be used with the matching MCX-SP10 speakers or connected at line level into a standard amp or system. Music can also be fed to the client in analogue or digital form, and there's a composite video output, so menus can be viewed on a larger screen.

And it keeps getting better: the Yamaha is even easy to install, thanks to simple auto-configuration routines allowing the server to find the client(s) and vice versa. And once they're all talking – up to seven clients can be used, with expansion possible using standard IEEE 802.11b hardware – you just select the music you want to play using the client. This will even wake up the server remotely if required and away you go, with different music in each zone if you wish. There's a lag of a few seconds between the server system and the client, but that's the only glitch we found, and won't be a problem if music from one room can't be overheard in another.

> "This is a system you could install in a couple of rooms, then expand as your needs – and your funds – increase. It's also very cool..."

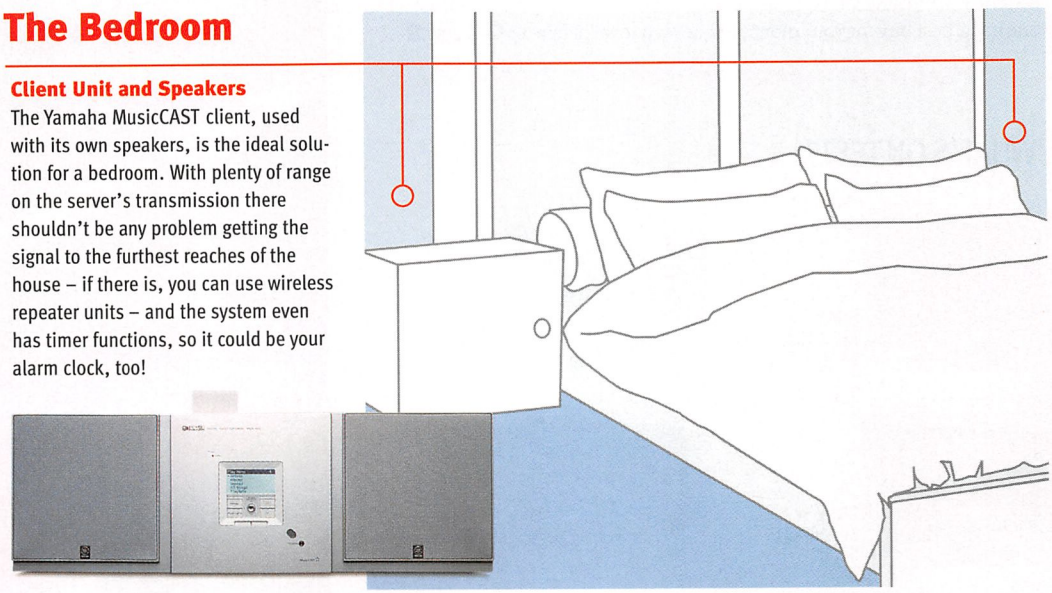
Best of all, MusicCAST sounds excellent. The server's on a par with that Award-winning CDR-HD1300, and while there are obvious signs of compression when music is streamed to the clients in MP3 format, it's more than good enough for background use and casual listening. Streaming in PCM format gives a much better balance, the speakers used with the client being the only limiting factor: they're enjoyable enough, but you notice the difference when you take a line-out and feed it into a conventional amp and speaker system. The quality is then very good indeed, with fine punch and drive, plus high levels of detail, as well suited to tinkling jazz or chamber music as it is to driving rock or rap.

You can't overstate the importance of this Yamaha: MusicCAST is a fine introduction to its technology's potential, which is likely to be the future of music in the home. And given that it's all done without recourse to any wires, this is one system you could install in a couple of rooms, then expand as your needs – and funds – increase. That it's also just about the coolest product we've tested all year helps, too...

The Bedroom

Client Unit and Speakers

The Yamaha MusicCAST client, used with its own speakers, is the ideal solution for a bedroom. With plenty of range on the server's transmission there shouldn't be any problem getting the signal to the furthest reaches of the house – if there is, you can use wireless repeater units – and the system even has timer functions, so it could be your alarm clock, too!



Is it time to buy a flat TV?

Now that you can choose from a range of 30in and 32in slim TVs, is it time to change your telly?

FANCY A FLAT TV for Christmas? Of course you do: the slimline screen has to be one of the most desirable of modern gadgets, freeing up valuable living room real estate and adding style to any home. But while slim is good, huge isn't necessarily to everyone's taste, and most of the plasma screens on the UK market come in a whopping 42in screen size. Terrific if, like us, you're a committed home cinema buff with a sizeable DVD habit, but not necessarily what you want if all you're after is a replacement for the conventional 28- and 32in tellies that dominate British homes.

Which is why we've got this group test together: four slimline screens, all four of which can be hung on the wall or mounted on plinths as you prefer, and all of 32in size or less. Now don't get us wrong; if you want the best DVD experience with your home cinema system, and if your living room will cope, then by all means go for a larger plasma set. But sets like these are big enough for a lot of households, and their relatively small screen size means that they cost a fair bit less than most larger TVs, too.

You'll notice that we've mixed plasma and LCD TVs together in the same test. Why not? It's no different from many of the advertising campaigns currently doing the rounds. Slimline screens are being sold on their allure, not their respective technologies, and to a degree, the issues over the merits of each type of screen matter not a jot. If you want to buy a 32in or 30in slimline screen tomorrow, you can choose from an LCD or a plasma, and the only real issue of note is this: which one is the best buy for your money? That's what we're here to find out.

WHAT'S ON TEST?

SONY
KE-32TS2
£3400

SHARP
LC-30HV4E
£3500

SONY
KLV-30MR1
£4000

TOSHIBA
26WL36
£2500

Ask Yourself :

Am I getting the best from my audio system?

A Wooden enclosure.....
as used by most loudspeakers

Advanced Composite Carbon Fibre, Aluminium and Welded Steel enclosure.....
as used in a Wilson Benesch loudspeaker

Totally Unique Loudspeakers from £2,000

Designed and built in Sheffield, England Tel: 0114 2852656
info@wilson-benesch.com www.wilson-benesch.com

Sony KE-32TS2 £3400 ★★★★★

FOR

Style; picture quality; strong specification; plenty of input sockets

AGAINST

Off-air TV broadcast signals don't look quite so good, but that's true of every plasma

VERDICT

Still one of our favourite plasmas, this is a very desirable and effective performer

OUR SOLE PLASMA TV entrant is a peach: Sony's KE-32TS2 is our 2003 Award-winner, and offers a very solid blend of plasma performance for the money. It's a delight to use; every detail, from the remote handset through to the on-screen graphics, is superbly conceived. It's a great looker, too – it'll flatter almost any living room.

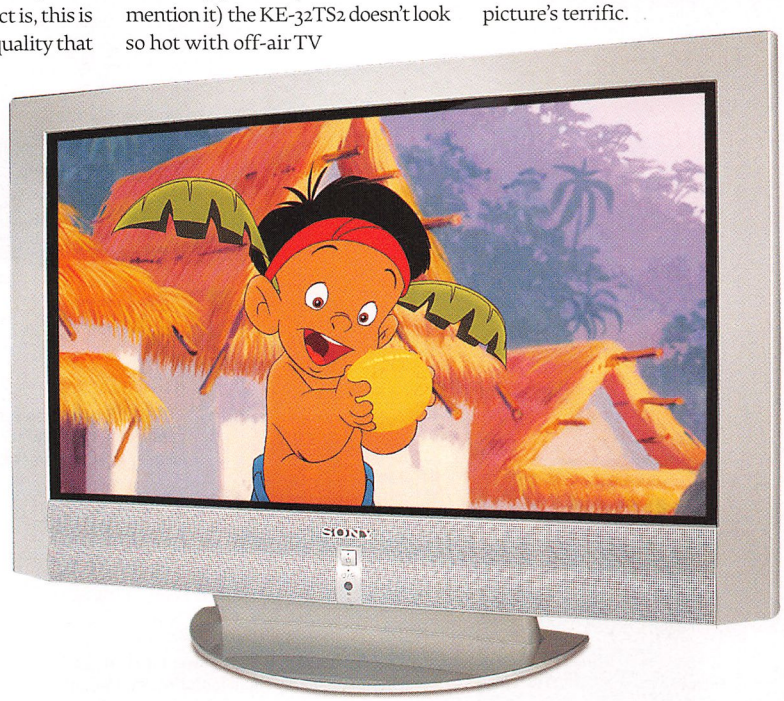
Unlike many rival plasma sets, Sony's smallest is an integrated unit, with the tuner and all the relevant input sockets built into the set's rear. That makes it deeper than some rivals, which means this is a set best suited to mounting on a table-top stand or its (optional) glass equipment rack, rather than being hung from a wall. Having said that, you can find a suitable bracket for the wall-hanging job if that's what you want.

So, let's talk performance. Like we said, we gave this particular plasma a gong in our Awards, so you'd expect it to be pretty good, right? Fact is, this is a terrific set, with picture quality that firmly eclipses most comparable plasmas. Like every TV here, it's at its best when fed with a high-quality DVD signal, preferably from a progressive scan DVD player using component video inputs. Colours are rich and vivid, especially with animation, but even fleshtones on *The Lord Of The Rings* look natural, not something that can be said for every rival.

Black depth is very impressive, too, though you'll notice some loss of contrast when viewing wide 2.35:1 'Cinemascope' movies, where the black bars that frame the image top and bottom can cause a reduction in picture dynamics. Otherwise, this is a first-rate image for the money.

There has to be a 'but', and it's this; like every plasma (or LCD, come to mention it) the KE-32TS2 doesn't look so hot with off-air TV signals. There's some grain in the picture, but using a digibox helps to reduce this to more reasonable levels.

Overall, this is a gem of a slimline set: it looks great, it's easy to use, it's well-equipped with sockets, and the picture's terrific.



Sony KLV-30MR1 £4000 ★★★★☆

FOR

Truly gorgeous to look at; well specified in terms of inputs; a decent performer, too

AGAINST

Not quite as good as its plasma sibling in image terms – pricier as well

VERDICT

Sony has excelled itself with this set: it's one of the best LCDs on the market

IS LCD GOING to triumph over plasma in the long term? Some pundits seem to think so, although we're reserving judgement for now. Sony seems to feel the same way, because the company has recently launched the KLV-30MR1 LCD TV as a direct competitor to its own, ultra-desirable plasma TV, tested above. Talk about hedging your bets...

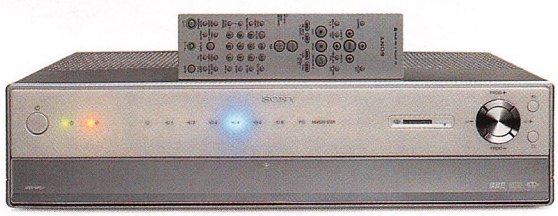
It's an intriguing conundrum. There's not a great deal to separate the two products in price terms, and the LCD set's slightly smaller screen (30in, as against 32in) isn't going to cause too many sleepless nights. And as for looks – well, see for yourself. If the KE-32TS2 is a looker, the KLV-30MR1 is a positive stunner, thanks in no small measure to its amazing 'suspended' glass screen.

The real surprise, though, is that the KLV-30MR1 is good enough to stand up to its sibling in performance terms, too. With progressive scan DVD signals, the Sony generates bright colours and boasts excellent detail rendition.

However, it's not quite as good as the KE-32TS2. Movement across the screen can appear less than smooth, and the faster the motion, the more you're aware of some background noise. Contrast is also not quite 'right': it's better than most LCDs, but not quite as rich as you'd like.

Naturally, off-air signals also suffer from more distracting noise on the screen, but as we've said, that's true of most plasma screens, too.

Still, this is a sterling LCD effort from Sony. We'd buy the plasma, but it's good to have the choice...



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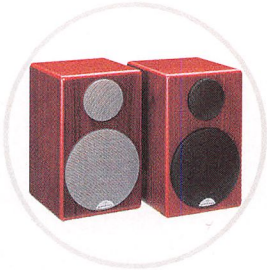
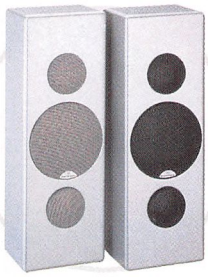
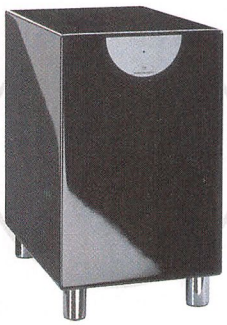


R90
Ultra-compact in beech or rosemah real wood veneer, gloss black or video silver lacquer. Complete with award winning C-CAM® cone technology, die-cast metal wall bracket and interchangable black & silver grilles.



R180
Versatile: position vertically or horizontally in music or movie applications. C-CAM® technology. Real wood veneer and gloss lacquer finishes, bracket and interchangable grilles supplied.



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Sharp LC-30HV4E £3500 ★★★☆☆

FOR

Good detail and brightness; slim design; comprehensive array of inputs

AGAINST

Colours can be artificial; contrast could be better; some picture noise, especially off-air

VERDICT

A sleek and appealing LCD set, but you can get better performance elsewhere

AS YOU'LL HAVE read in our News section (see p26) Sharp is so enamoured of the LCD and plasma display concept that the company has taken the decision to cease conventional TV manufacture altogether. Clearly, the company thinks that this slimline screen game has got a future!

The LC-30HV4E looks relatively plain next to the sleek Sony and radical Toshiba, but it's well finished and thoughtfully equipped, boasting an external tuner box that houses an extensive array of sockets. Set-up is straightforward, and if the remote handset is on the bulky side, at least it's well laid out and clear.

Performance is a blend of strengths and weaknesses. In common with many LCD sets, the Sharp can produce bright, vivid colours, although it's not quite as spectacular as the Sony KLV-30MR1 in this regard. Detail definition is impressive too, the Sharp delivering crisp, accurate lines with animated DVDs.

However, standard DVD imagery can look a little artificial – skin tones can look somewhat unreal, while the overall contrast could be better. This is especially apparent on *The Lord Of The Rings*, where some dark scenes can be difficult to follow. Fast motion is handled reasonably well, with respectably low levels of picture noise and image 'smearing', but just the same, the image doesn't appear to be as three-dimensional or convincing as you'd find with the very best plasma or LCD alternatives.

Still, we can understand why the Sharp's slimline appeal could win you over. It's not a bad performer by any means: we just feel that there are some superior rivals available.

Toshiba 26WL36 £2500 ★★★★☆

FOR

Good picture in most regards; stylish design; excellent specification in terms of inputs

AGAINST

Contrast could be better; still some smearing to the image on fast motion

VERDICT

A very effective LCD set: looks great, and is largely a success in picture terms

YOU'LL HAVE NOTICED that this is a 26in TV, not a 30in or 32in model. Fair cop: we wanted to get the new 32WL36 Toshiba, but the company wasn't able to get us a suitable review sample in time. Since there's no technical differences between the 26in and 32in models (they have the same resolution and contrast ratio), it's still a reasonably fair comparison; we'll just ignore issues of relative screen size.

Certainly, this new Toshiba is a very commendable LCD effort. It looks the business, that much is obvious, and the dark frame around the screen is more than just a styling point; it serves to intensify the contrast of images on the screen, especially with 1.85:1-ratio DVD transfers.

Technically, Toshiba's paid special attention to the 'response speed' of the LCD panel, with the aim of minimising motion 'smearing', the traditional bugbear of these TVs. It works, too: the 26WL36 is one of the smoothest LCDs we've seen, handling rapid motions across the screen with impressive consistency. It's still not perfect, though – Sony's KE-32TS2 plasma is a more natural performer, especially with football or other fast-moving sports programming.

In most other image regards, the Toshiba is a solid performer. Black levels and contrast are respectable without being remarkable: you get a good sense of depth and detail in the darker scenes of *The Lord Of The Rings*, but some of the subtle tonal differences between grey and black are less clear than is ideal. Off-air signals suffer from the usual grain and noise that blights many LCD and plasma TVs, but it's no worse than other slimline sets.

Other stuff? This being a Toshiba, it's very well sorted from the home cinema point of view. It's the only set here to give you two component video inputs, for starters, and both forms of progressive scan video are supported. All in all, this is a slimline debut Toshiba can be very proud of.

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Winner Sony KE-32TS2 | £3400 | ★★★★★

NOW LET'S GET this part clear once again: we've got no axe to grind about LCD TVs. You shouldn't read anything into the fact that a plasma won this particular test, save for this: if you want a slimline TV in this size class, the KE-32TS2 is the best way to spend your three grand. End of story.

But we will say this: we're sure that LCD sets are getting better. Some of the early examples were – being blunt – awful, but the latest generation of sets deliver images that are vastly superior to their forebears. We could also add that we were in no doubt that this would happen: Panasonic proved last year that it's possible to make a great LCD TV, as our five star review of the TX-15LT2 (soon to be replaced) so ably illustrated.

However, when compared directly to an equivalent plasma, we don't think that even the new, improved LCD sets are quite there yet. Fast motion still seems a problem area, and so does contrast. In the most direct LCD-to-plasma comparison possible, comparing a 30in Sony with a 32in Sony, it's the latter that triumphs, delivering better overall contrast and lower 'noise' than its newer sibling.

One thing is certain: we'll see more slimline sets in the coming months. In fact we've a superb large-screen plasma test lined up next issue...

WHAT'S IT GOT?	Sony KE-32TS2 TEST WINNER	Sony KLV-30MR1	Sharp LC-30HV4E	Toshiba 26WL36
Type	Plasma	LCD	LCD	LCD
Screen size	32in	30in	30in	26in
TV tuner	Yes, internal	Yes, external	Yes, external	Yes, internal
Resolution	1024x852	1280x768	1280x768	1280x768
Progressive scan	PAL and NTSC	PAL and NTSC	PAL and NTSC	PAL and NTSC
Scarts	Three	Four	Three	Three
RGB-compatible	Two	Three	Two	Two
Component in	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, two
PC in	No	Yes	PC	Yes
Dimensions (hxwxd)	63x86x13cm	53x97x10cm	61x100x30cm	47x82x17cm
Weight	25.5kg	27kg	19.5kg	21.3kg
WHAT WE GAVE IT...				
Sound	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆
Build	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
VERDICT	★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆

Partners for the winner

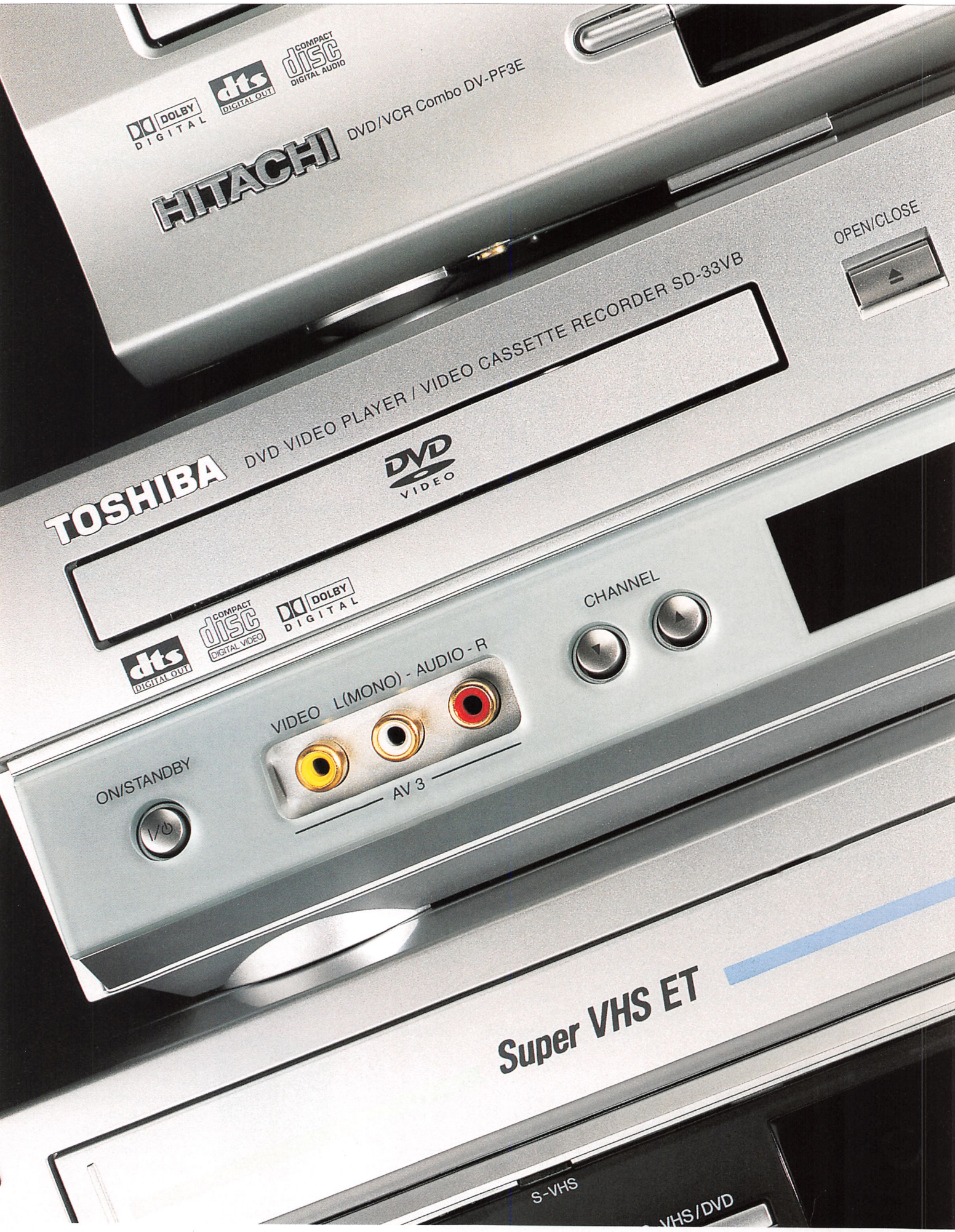
The ideal kit to put with the Sony KE-32TS2

Denon DVD-2900
£850 ★★★★★
September 2003
The Denon produces one of the best pictures you'll find. PAL and NTSC progressive scan video is complemented by universal disc replay.

Denon AVR-2803
£650 ★★★★★
Awards 2003
This terrific midprice receiver sounds great, and offers every useful surround processing feature you could reasonably want in this price range.

M&K K-5 £1715 ★★★★★
October 2003
Since you've gone for a stylish TV, a compact speaker package makes sense. The M&K system ain't pretty, but boy does it sound great.

We tested them with (price-comparable system) | **DVD player** Denon DVD-2900; **Receiver** Denon AVR-2803; **Speakers** M&K K-5 system; **Digibox** Pace Twin Digital
(reference system) | **DVD player** Denon DVD-A1; **Processor** Lexicon MC-12B; **Power amplifier** Lexicon LX-7; **Speakers** M&K S-150THX speaker system


DOLBY DIGITAL
dts DIGITAL OUT
COMPACT disc DIGITAL AUDIO
HITACHI
DVD/VCR Combo DV-PF3E
OPEN/CLOSE
TOSHIBA
DVD VIDEO PLAYER / VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDER SD-33VB
DVD VIDEO
COMPACT disc DIGITAL VIDEO
DOLBY DIGITAL
dts DIGITAL OUT
CHANNEL
VIDEO L(MONO) - AUDIO - R
AV 3
ON/STANDBY
I/⏻
Super VHS ET
S-VHS
VHS/DVD

Double feature

We test space-saving DVD player/video recorder combinations – which is the two-in-one winner?

FOR MANY OF us these days, space is at a premium, so it would seem to make sense to buy appliances that cover more than one function: washer/dryers, for example, or microwaves that double as grills. But it's also a fact of life that so often these combination units are a compromise – they save space, but they don't function as well as two conventional units.

One of the latest trends in mass-market electronics is the combined DVD player and video recorder, designed to save space under your TV, and also answer some connectivity problems. With one of these your DVD and video hardware can share one remote handset and one Scart connection to the TV, with none of the 'daisychaining' needed with two boxes, and you can even run the output from the two into the TV via an aerial connection should your TV be so old that it lacks Scarts.

But can these combination machines really offer value for money? Or would you be better off with a separate DVD player and VCR, now that these two boxes can be bought for the same kind of money as one of these combi units? You're about to find out... ➡

WHAT'S ON TEST?

BUSH
DVHS1
£200

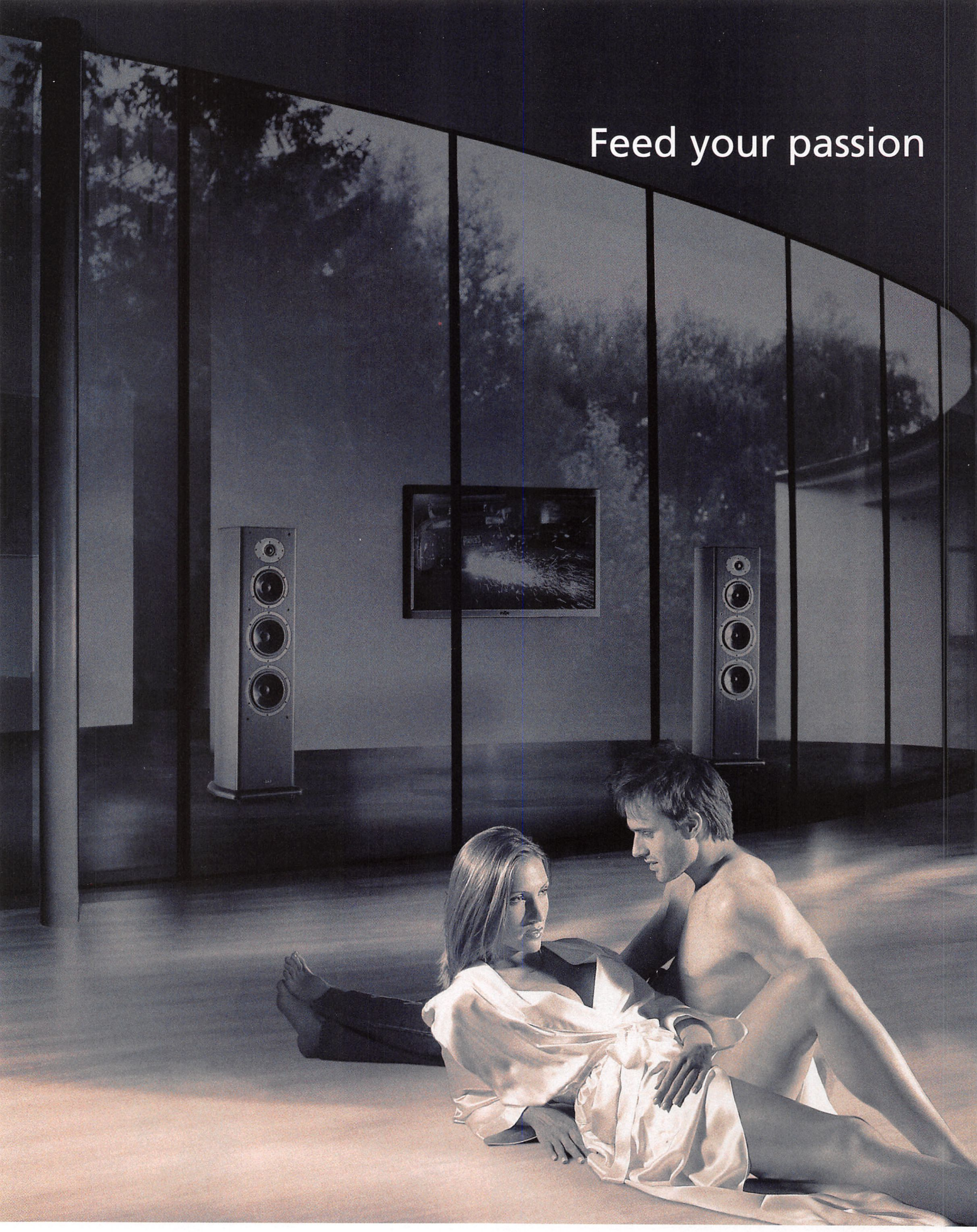
HITACHI
DV-PF3E
£200

JVC
HR-XVS20
£240

PANASONIC
NV-P30EB
£270

SANYO
HV-DX2E
£260

TOSHIBA
SD-33VB
£250



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Bush DVHS1 £200 ★☆☆☆☆

FOR

Not exactly pricey; reasonable remote

AGAINST

Not exactly very good; laborious VCR tuning; poor sound and vision

VERDICT

You can find this Bush combo for a sensible price, but we can't imagine why anyone would want to own one

IMAGINE THE SCENE: you buy this Bush unit for the kid's bedroom for Christmas, and little faces light up. Then, bored on Boxing Day, they find this magazine, a bit dog-eared and well-thumbed. With tears welling in their little eyes, they ask you why you didn't buy them a proper DVD player and video recorder, why you don't love them any more, and what time nice Uncle Ray who Mummy likes so much is coming round with his presents. You crack open another can of beer, and ask yourself what kind of a parent you've become...

You see, the simple fact of the matter is that the Bush DVHS1, with which we kick off this *Group Test*, really isn't very good. For a start it looks and feels rather cheap, with only a clearly labelled and logical remote handset to redeem it, and when you unbox it and hook it up you find that it lacks the automatic set-up and installation found on all the others here. Tuning in the video channels is a matter of searching for them one by one and allocating them to presets, while the clock also has to be set manually. It's a real throwback to the past, as is the lack of Videoplus timer control, found on every other machine in this group, and which we'd really expect in a machine these days.

What's more, the quality from the video section is no great shakes: the Bush looks soft and 'fizzy' when recording off-air or playing back pre-recorded tapes, making it suitable only for time-shifting duties in absolute emergencies – you really wouldn't want to make tapes of shows you need to keep on this machine.

> "The Bush looks soft and 'fizzy' when recording off-air or playing back pre-recorded tapes"

And the DVD playback, while notably better than the VHS quality, isn't up to the standards of the best in this group, and lags well behind that of the best DVD-only machines in the sub-£100 market. Sonically the Bush is soft and compressed via its analogue outputs, and while it's better when hooked up digitally to an AV receiver it's still rather lacklustre.

Factor-in limited connections – the machine only has stereo analogue outputs and an electrical digital feed alongside its twin Scarts and aerial hook-ups – and the Bush is a unit of relatively slight appeal. Even by the low standards we'll see in this group, the DVHS1 is pretty poor.

Hitachi DV-PF3E £200 ★★☆☆☆

FOR

Very compact dimensions; big, clear remote; OK playback and recording

AGAINST

Quality is unremarkable; limited outputs; coffee-grinder tape rewind noise

VERDICT

This Hitachi is a compact, shallow unit that will fit into tight spaces, but it's only average value for money

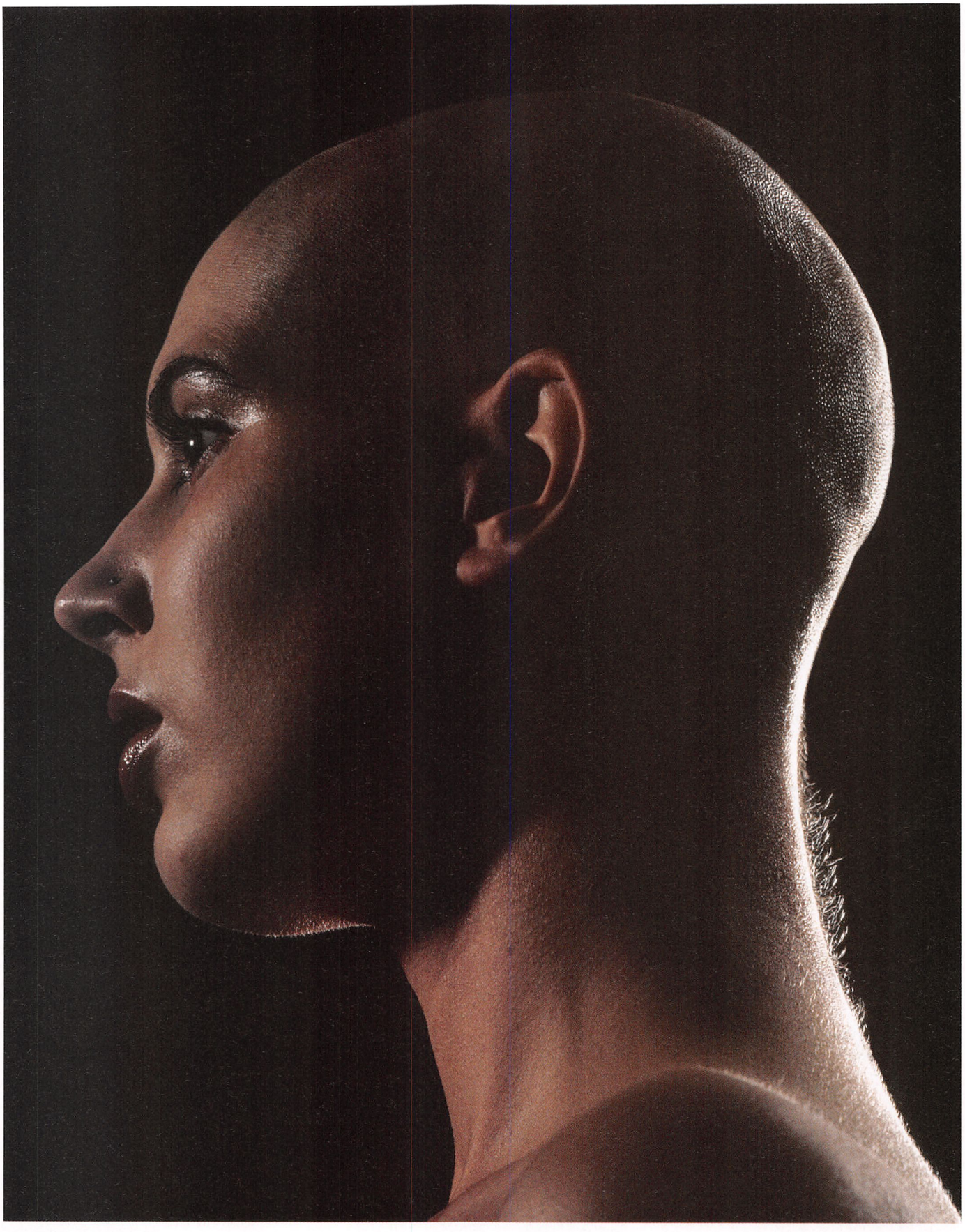
IT WOULD BE tempting to think that all these machines are created equal, and choosing between them is simply a matter of picking a brand name and styling that you like. But the Hitachi proves this isn't the case, and for reasons likely to limit its appeal to any home cinema buyers still wanting to play their old VHS video cassettes through an AV system. You see, while the DV-PF3E seems at first glance to have a reasonable range of connections – two Scarts, S-video outputs, analogue audio outs and both optical and coaxial digital feeds – this provision is limited by the fact that, apart from the Scarts, these sockets only work with the DVD player section of the machine.

Short of buying a special Scart cable with the audio broken out to a pair of phono leads, there's no way of getting the sound from the video recorder into an AV receiver or processor and thus enabling it to be processed with Dolby Pro-Logic II and fed to a multichannel speaker system. In short, we suspect this machine is basically designed to be hooked up to a TV using RF and/or Scart connections, and the other sockets on the rear are just a bit of window-dressing few buyers of this unit are expected to use.

That impression carries through to the performance of the Hitachi, which really is nothing special, whether from VHS or DVD. On tape, whether playing back its own recordings or shop-bought tapes, it shows all the visual vagueness and sonic shortcomings none of us missed when we moved to DVD, and the automatic rewind at the end of a tape is extremely noisy.

> "There's no way of getting sound from the VCR part into an AV receiver for surround action"

Even with DVDs it looks soft and muted, with a lack of contrast and dull colours doing nothing much to grab the viewer's attention. Yes, it's better than the unit's VHS performance – considerably so, in fact – but that's really not saying too much. Add sound that's compressed and confused from the analogue outputs, and noticeably lacking in punch on the digital connections, factor in a cost that's more than enough to buy a decent DVD player and a VHS recorder – even at the £180 rate you can easily pick it up for – and you have a machine that's really best avoided.



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JVC HR XVS20 £240 ★★★☆☆

FOR

Good off-air recording; reasonably clear remote; OK DVD playback

AGAINST

It isn't small; it isn't cheap; no electrical digital output

VERDICT

Not a bad example of its type, but the JVC sets no new standards in any area, and is relatively expensive

THE JVC HAS one advantage and one disadvantage. As you might expect from the inventors of the VHS format, this machine offers good off-air recording, thanks to its use of the Super VHS ET system, which allows a choice of high-quality taping or extended recording times of up to 12 hours, although quality suffers. On the downside, this isn't exactly a small machine, even if it's still smaller than having a separate DVD player and VCR, and should fit on most TV stand shelves.

Otherwise, this is a pretty run-of-the-mill DVD/VCR combination unit, although rear panel connections are kept to the minimum – aerial in/out, twin Scarts and analogue stereo phonos, plus digital out only on an optical connection, in the old Japanese style. Set-up is automatic and logical, even if the JVC needed a little help finding ITV1 in our test location, and the usual DVD set-up menus are similarly easy to navigate. Meanwhile the remote handset is fairly clearly laid-out – at least, it's easy to use after a little experimentation – and we had this one up and running just as fast as we did the others in this test.

However, performance isn't all we'd hoped. Yes, this machine produces some of the best off-air tapes we saw during this test, with only the Panasonic and Toshiba rivalling it, but the limitations of VHS – even here in its Super form – were apparent both with recordings and commercially duplicated tapes. The picture is soft and a little fizzy, and the sound is plagued with all those odd burbles we'd almost forgotten thanks to prolonged exposure to DVD. And the performance with disc is adequate rather than spectacular – comparing our tape of *Goldeneye* with the DVD copy showed an obvious quality jump, but we've seen sharper, more subtle pictures from budget DVD hardware, and the sound via that optical link lagged behind the best we've encountered from current sub-£100 players.

> "This JVC combo offers good off-air recording, thanks to its use of the Super VHS ET system"

Yes, the JVC offers convenience, and for those wanting to do no more than connect it to a TV set it could well be good enough. But it's big, less than stylish and relatively pricey, meaning it doesn't stack up against the separate DVD and VCR options. If you must have a machine like this, you can do better.

Panasonic NV-VP30EBS £270 ★★☆☆☆

FOR

Styling; nice on-screen graphics; reasonable DVD picture quality

AGAINST

Build quality and VHS playback nothing special, optical digital only, poor remote

VERDICT

Another machine, another disappointment: the Panasonic's OK, but no stunner

UP TO NOW this test has made pretty grim reading, so we approached the Panasonic with some hopes that things would brighten a little. Surely here at last have we'd a machine we could recommend as a space-saving solution without too many performance compromises?

Well, things looked good from the offset, with the Panasonic having that fashionable half-mirror finish display panel and good, large digits on the display itself, making it easy to read from across the room. By keeping some minor function buttons small the company has also given the machine a relatively clean look, but it has more than made up for it with the remote control: we'd love to have been at the product planning meeting where someone decided light blue on grey was a really neat colour for some of the button markings.

The build quality here is acceptable, in that we accept – or at least have come to expect – a nice metallic 'clang' from the lid of products at this level, but less acceptable is the 'old school Japanese' provision of digital output on an optical connection alone, and the need to slide a switch to change from DVD to VCR operation. Others here do it more elegantly. Maybe this is another one really only meant to be used straight into a TV, using Scart or RF hook-ups, and is therefore of fairly limited interest to anyone looking to build a system.

And that's a bit of a shame, since the picture quality from DVD is none too shabby, with subtle colours, decent contrast and better sharpness than most here can manage, while even VHS recordings are good enough for timeshifting duties. Playing back pre-recorded tapes, the Panasonic delivers pretty good sharpness and snap, but spoils things with a continuous and very distracting fizz to the picture. That said, the sound from VHS isn't at all bad, although DVD sound is poor through the analogue outputs, and unremarkable via the digital, perhaps due to that optical connection.

> "It delivers decent sharpness and snap, but spoils things with a continuous fizz"

So that's the Panasonic: while it's one of the better machines here it didn't rock our world. Maybe we were expecting too much, but this proved to be another major disappointment, especially given the machine's price – which effectively takes it down from three stars to two.

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Sanyo HV-DX2E £260 ★★★☆☆

FOR

Reasonable set-up and operation; compact but clear remote handset

AGAINST

Looks cheap and bulky; DVD and VHS playback nothing special

VERDICT

Shop around and you can buy this for £200. But a budget DVD player plus a VCR would be a better bet

THE SANYO MAY not share the style of the Toshiba SD-33, but there's certainly some commonality under the skin, Fire it up and select the set-up menu, and you're greeted with the same two lines of little icons, and the same auto-tuning screen.

However, there are differences, and not just in the fascia styling, which looks a lot more basic and bulky than the Toshiba's, even if it's actually only about a centimetre taller. Maybe it's something to do with the layout and the finish of the plastics...

To the rear, the Sanyo's layout is extremely simple, with two sets of analogue outputs – one from DVD alone, the other from DVD and VCR – along with an electrical digital out, two Scarts and of course the usual aerial in and out sockets for the VCR. But where this machine scores is in the design of its remote control, which manages to be the smallest we have in this group while at the same time having a layout of exemplary clarity. After only a few hours' use it's entirely intuitive, allowing you to go straight to the function you want, be it on DVD or VCR almost without thinking.

However, the Sanyo can't match the best in this group when it comes to sound and picture quality. Even with DVD it looks a bit rough and ready, with a soft picture, muted colours and an overall sense of flatness. The sound from the analogue outputs is similarly ho-hum, and while things get better when the digital feed is used, others here still manage better impact and power when connected through a good receiver or processor.

> "The Sanyo can't match the best in this group when it comes to sound and picture quality"

VHS performance is even worse, with soft and noisy pictures when recording off-air, and similarly unimpressive results from pre-recorded tapes. You really wouldn't want to use this machine for much more than grabbing an episode of *EastEnders* while you were otherwise occupied, and even then there are machines better able to capture Dirty Den's latest appearance in a manner closer to your off-air signal, rather than looking like the oldest rental tape in the shop.

Yes, everything here works fine, and we really like the remote control layout, but this is hardly the best advert for the benefits of these DVD/VHS combination units.

Toshiba SD-33VB £250 ★★★☆☆

FOR

Good DVD performance; component video output from DVD

AGAINST

Only reasonable with VHS; counter-intuitive remote handset

VERDICT

The Toshiba is so nearly very good, with good performance from DVD, but that remote control really sucks

WE EXPECTED GREAT things of the Toshiba, not least because the company's budget DVD players are so good, and when it came to performance with the little silver discs we weren't disappointed. The SD-33 delivers pictures of good clarity and impact, with colours rendered subtly and good contrast control, giving an impression of depth that's admittedly not a patch on what you can get from top-notch DVD hardware, but pretty respectable at the budget end of the market.

And the Toshiba sounds good, too, on DVD: using its stereo analogue outputs it's no stunner, but with an electrical digital connection into an AV receiver things get a lot better, yet again demonstrating the huge gains DVD offers over VHS. What's more, the Toshiba is equipped to make the most of the DVD format, with component video output alongside the usual Scarts, optical and electrical digital outputs, and even dedicated line outputs for the DVD section as well as a combined DVD/VHS stereo pair.

Like the other machines in this test, this one is a breeze to tune in and set-up, but unfortunately things go pretty pear-shaped from there onwards, as the remote is one of the worst laid out and most obstructive we've come across in a good while. Even after an extended period of use we never found it intuitive, and selecting facilities always required a hunt around the button labelling to find the right one to push. Agreed, the complexity of all of these units makes for crowded handsets, but we got the hang of others much more quickly.

> "It delivers pictures of good clarity and impact. Colours are rendered subtly and contrast's good"

On VHS this machine was good with off-air recordings – well, as good as standard VHS gets, which means noticeable fizzing and other picture noise, and pretty ropy sound, but less than stunning with prerecorded tapes, with a number of titles looking rough around the edges. Maybe it's best to stick with using the VCR section for time-shifting, or for the kids' collection of Disney videos, and use the DVD player for all the 'quality' viewing.

Another plus point for this Tosh is that you can pick it up for around £200. Even so, you'd do better with a Toshiba SD-330 DVD player and the kind of VHS machine you can now pick up for £70 or less.

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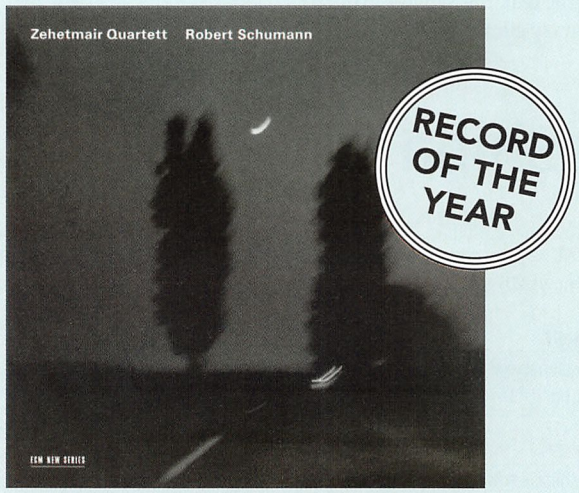
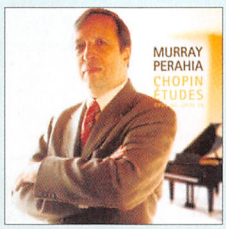


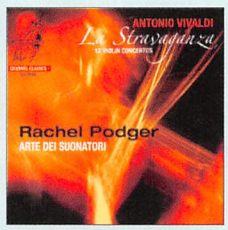
Schumann String Quartets Zehetmair Quartet

Britten The Turn of the Screw
Daniel Harding



Chopin Etudes
Murray Perahia

Hummel Masses
Richard Hickox



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Clifford Curzon

Winner Toshiba SD-33VB | £250 | ★★★☆☆

WEWERETEMPTED to leave a large blank space on this page: frankly, anyone wanting to take home cinema even vaguely seriously really shouldn't consider one of these units. Our advice, as you may have gathered by now, would be to buy one of the bargain DVD players in this month's *Supertest*, and complement it with a budget VCR if you don't already have one. We spotted a very nice Philips for around £70 in a local supermarket during the writing of this test.

No, these machines may have digital outputs – and, in one case, a component video feed – but they're best considered as units to be connected to a TV with a Scart cable for simple playback through the telly's own speakers, where the sonic shortcomings of most of them will be masked. These machines are bought to feed a kitchen or bedroom TV or as the kind of thing you might put in the kids' bedroom to allow them to play their own movies.

On those grounds the Toshiba just about squeezes the victory here, as the only machine with the kind of picture and sound quality we look for in entry-level DVD players and video recorders these days. It looks reasonable and is well put together, so should withstand some abuse. Small fingers used to games consoles and high-speed text messaging may even find their way around the remote control, which to our eyes was pretty confusing – although the Panasonic's handset had it comprehensively beaten when it comes to pure bloody-minded obstructiveness.

> "These machines are bought to feed a kitchen or bedroom TV"

It's been a long while since we ended up with a test winner with only three stars, and so the Toshiba's victory in this 'least worst among equals' exercise is a somewhat hollow one.

We were pretty disappointed with the general standards throughout, and while the SD-33VB is far from perfect – we *really* don't like that remote! – it just squeezes in as the best of the bunch.

Alternatives to the winner

Better sound and vision for your money

Toshiba SD-330E DVD Player

£100 ★★★★★

DVD Player Best Buy Awards 2003

Your best bet is to spend the money on a separate DVD player and a VCR. The latter is pretty simple, given that it's relatively easy to pick up a good recorder for well under £100. This has become a market where you can buy on the facilities a machine offers, and even its style, rather than worrying too much about performance. That would leave you with about £100 or so to spend on a DVD player, and as you can read in our *Supertest* this month the Toshiba is a cracker, with excellent picture quality and very convincing sound.

Panasonic DMR-E50 DVD recorder

£400 ★★★★★

DVD Recorder Best Buy Awards 2003

A DVD recorder offers all the recording and playback ability of the DVD/VCR combos – you can timeshift, save favourite programmes and, of course, play discs you have bought. And with Richer Sounds currently offering this Award-winning Panasonic for just £230, it really is a viable – and desirable – alternative.

Bush DVHS1

Hitachi DV PF3E

JVC HR XVS20

Panasonic NV-P30EB

Sanyo HV DX2E

Toshiba SD-33VB
TEST WINNER

WHAT'S IT GOT?	Bush DVHS1	Hitachi DV PF3E	JVC HR XVS20	Panasonic NV-P30EB	Sanyo HV DX2E	Toshiba SD-33VB
Price	£200	£200	£240	£270	£260	£250
VHS format	VHS	VHS	Super VHS	VHS	VHS	VHS
Video output(s)	Scart, RF	Scart, S-video (DVD only) RF	Scart, RF	Scart, S-video (DVD only), RF composite,	Scart, RF	Scart, component, RF
Analogue audio out	yes	yes, DVD only	yes	yes – two	yes – two	yes – two
Digital audio out	electrical	optical/electrical	optical	optical	electrical	optical/electrical
VideoPlus	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Automatic set-up	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Dimensions (WxHxD)	430x99x314mm	435x99x218mm	435x98x357mm	430x87x266mm	430x97x300mm	430x89x266mm
WHAT WE GAVE IT...						
Sound	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆
DVD picture	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
VHS picture	★☆☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
Facilities	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
Build	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
VERDICT	★☆☆☆☆	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆

We tested them with | **Processor** TAG McLaren AV32DP; **power amplifier** TAG McLaren 100x5R:10; **front speakers** PMC OB1; **Centre speaker** PMC TB2M; **rear speakers** PMC DB1; subwoofer MJ Acoustics Reference 1; **television** Panasonic TX-38PS1; **cables** Chord Company Signature/Odyssey, Philex Thor Scart cable

Get wired!

The right wire can make all the difference to your system: it can't work magic if you have a weedy amp or a shrieky CD player, but it can feed all the quality of a fine set-up through to the speakers

Interconnects

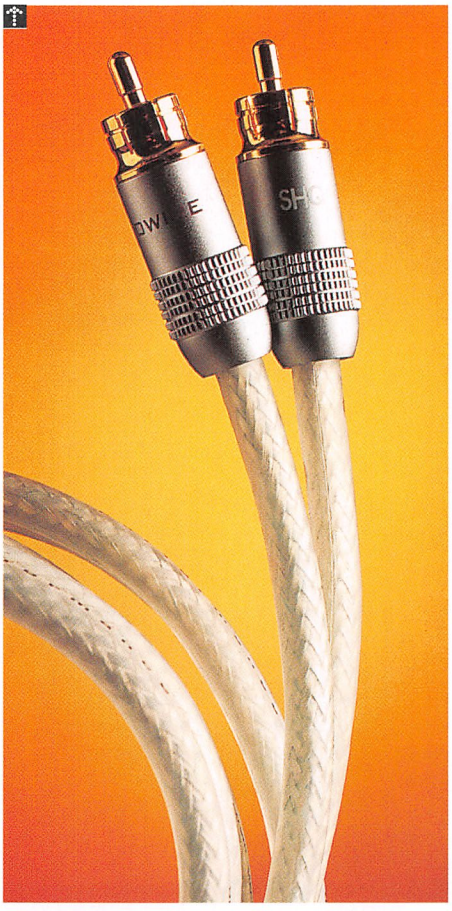
Vivanco Prowire SHQ

£29.95/1.2m pair ★★★☆☆

Using silver-plated oxygen-free copper conductors and shielding braid, this is a good-quality interconnect, although its sound is lacklustre when compared to similarly priced competitors. It's a little soft, making the bass shut-in and bloomy, and failing to convey the treble sparkle apparent when using the Ecosse rival. It's better than 'freebie' interconnects – anything is – but SHQ is only average value for money.

VERDICT

Nicely put together, but it sounds a bit soft and woolly even by budget interconnect standards



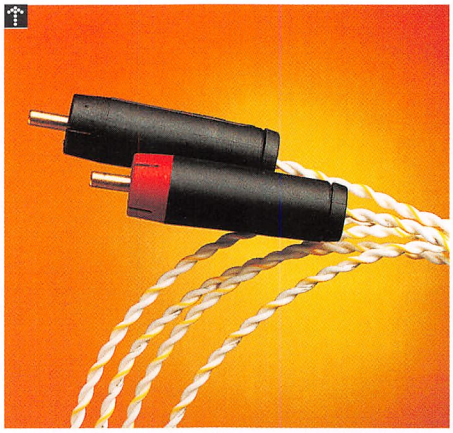
Black Rhodium Illusion

£77/1m pair ★★★★★

Illusion uses the fashionable Eichmann Bullet Plugs, thin silver-plated copper conductors giving the best possible contact with the plugs and the tight twist and PTFE insulation aiding interference rejection. And the sound is also simple and direct: it's fresh, wide open and exciting, with a powerful bass and clarity in the midband, making vocals impressive, with a breezy and involving top end.

VERDICT

Intriguing – this skinny yellow/white cable looks thin and weedy, but sounds rich, powerful and direct



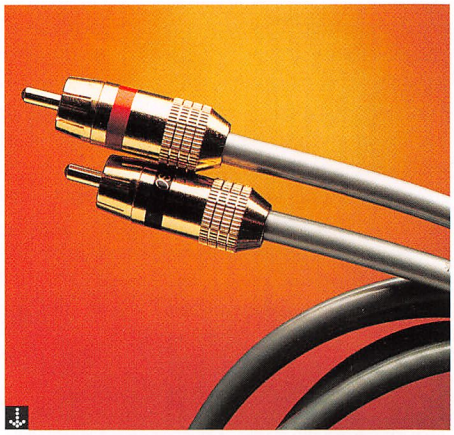
True Colours Cobra

£150 ★★★★★

This is TCI's range-topper, and using it in a budget system would be a waste of money. However, with a high-quality source and amplification, Cobra is money well spent, having a wide-open sound with a big powerful low end, an explicit midband and plenty of air in the treble. Cobra looks purposeful in its plain black sheathing, but it uses silver-plated conductors, a double-braided screen for interference-rejection, and gold-plated locking plugs from WBT.

VERDICT

Probably wasted in budget systems, but in upmarket set-ups this is an interconnect that will really shine



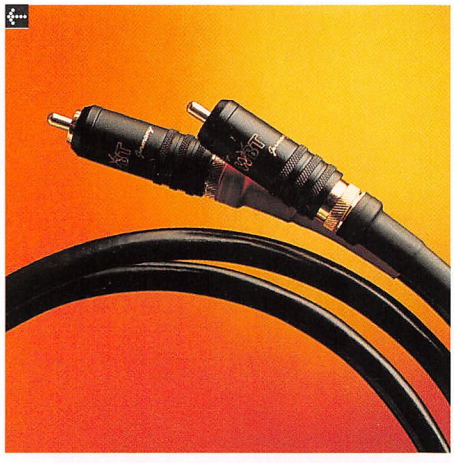
Ecosse Best Boy

£24.95/1m pair ★★★★★

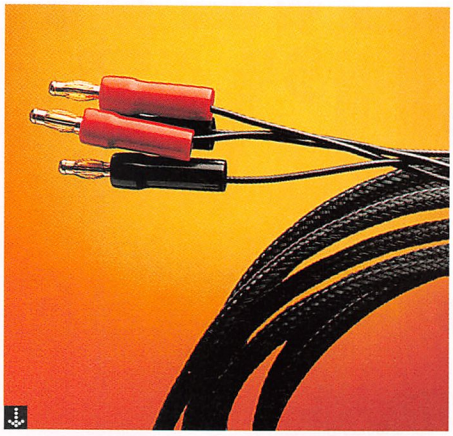
Ecosse's 'first upgrade' cable is relatively thin and grey, with oxygen-free copper, a foam insulator, an aluminium/mylar sheet and copper braid. While Best Boy will be bettered by much more expensive cables, it delivers a good powerful bass – provided your source can provide it. It also has an attractively open and sparkling treble, by the standards of entry-level cables, with good clarity and character.

VERDICT

No looker, agreed, but this is an honest and affordable cable giving fine performance for the money



Speaker cables



Precious Metals Silvertech Loudspeaker 4

£25/m biwire pair ★★★☆☆

This one is thin and easily hidden, and within the fabric sheath are four silver alloy conductors, said to give openness without excessive brightness. We weren't so sure: it grabs the attention, but over time it's hard not to ignore some glare in the treble, making strings steely and brass over-strident. But it does deliver powerful bass and plenty of atmosphere.

VERDICT

Dull it isn't, but the forthright treble balance may be too much for some. One to audition with some caution.

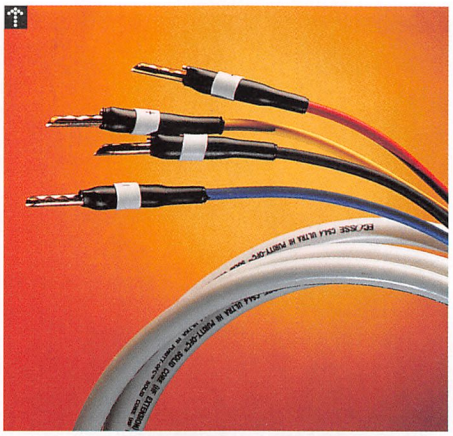
Ecosse CS4.4 Biwire

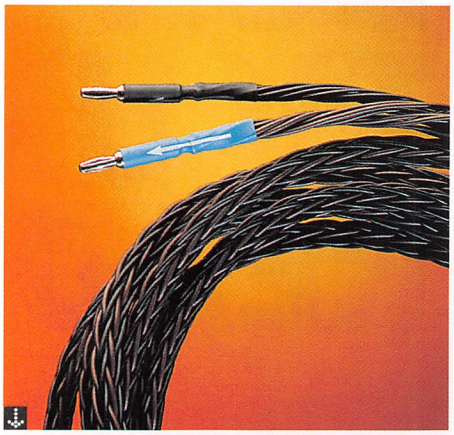
£88/3m biwire pair or £9/m cable only ★★★☆☆

This cable uses a multistrand rope-lay copper weave with a braid screen attached to a drain wire, and is available off the reel, as two-to-four biwire runs as here, or in a four-to-four configuration for £16 extra. It lacks a little openness and detail, and loses some punch in the bass, making dance and rock tracks a little leaden. What's more, we didn't notice any gains when using the earth connection.

VERDICT

A reasonable choice, and sensibly priced, but a long way from being outstanding for the money.





Kimber Kable 8PR

£153/4.5m pair ★★★★★

Based on the entry-level 4PR, with four conductors in an open weave, 8PR has – guess what? – eight conductors, for better bass and resolution, and is only sold pre-terminated. It's a fast, involving cable, coming into its own when used with gutsy amplification driving speakers that revel in a good dollop of power. Bass lines thunder, and there's a wide-open view of the recorded acoustic. This is a great buy.

VERDICT

Slightly oddball 'bundle of wire' looks, but the sound is direct and impressive, especially with powerful amps

Atlas 2+1.1

£5.49/m; £50 for termination ★★★★☆

This cable uses different-sized conductors for high and low frequencies and has a braided shield with a wire to connect to a suitable earth point on your amplifier, such as a case screw or a turntable grounding post. And it offers fine value, sounding fast and open. There's speed and power in the bass, while the treble conveys reasonable detail without ever sounding thin or overbright. As a step-up from basic single-wire runs, this one makes a lot of sense.

VERDICT

Not the most exciting-sounding cable in the world, perhaps, but Atlas 2+1.1 is sensible value for money

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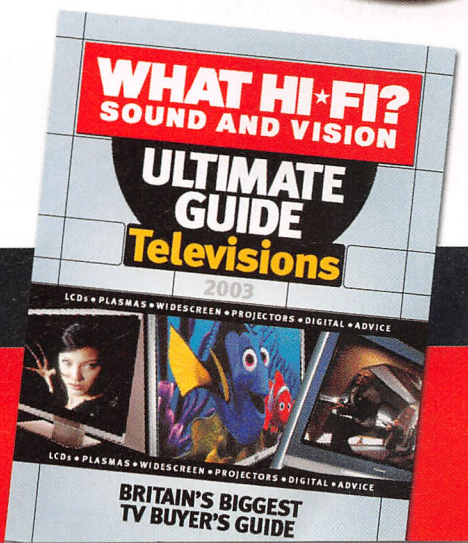

Grand amps

Pay more than £1000 for an amplifier and what should you expect? We test four leading examples

WHAT'S THE POINT of buying a £1500 two-channel amplifier when similarly priced AV alternatives pack in a truckful of extra features and offer the carrot of surround sound? If your main priority is music, particularly CD, the answer is simple: dedicated stereo amplifiers sound better. No, make that so much better that you'll need to spend around five times as much money on a multichannel monster to get a similar sonic performance.

Sure, there are no surround channels on these two-channel amplifiers but the compensations are more detail, subtlety and dynamics. By dynamics we don't just mean high-level transients such as bass thumps or drum rim shots, but the subtleties that communicate emotion in a voice or make the replay of an instrument convincing. Timing is usually better, too, so rhythms make more sense and consequently the music becomes more involving. Remember, all these qualities are as important for DVD-Audio and SACD as they are for CD.

Provided the restriction of two-channel replay is fine for you, things have never been this good at this price point. In the past spending between £1000 and £1500 on an amplifier meant a pre/power combination, and even now there are numerous alternatives from big-name companies such as Naim, Linn and Cyrus. However, these aren't the only way to get top-class performance, as Primare's Award-winning A30.1 has proved. This integrated has been our amplifier of choice at this price point for around five years now and remains a superb contender. The one-box configuration means cost savings over pre/power alternatives, and signal paths are shortened due to the lack of interconnect between the two amplifier sections. Sure, the power supply is usually shared, which introduces some compromise, though judging by the sound of the four products under test this is something that can be beaten. Want to know the best amplifier a grand and a half can buy? Read on as the Primare takes on high-quality rivals from AVI, Moon and Orelle.

WHAT'S ON TEST?

AVI
LABORATORY
SERIES £1399

MOON
I-3
£1550

ORELLE
SA100EVO
£1200

PRIMARE
A30.1
£1500

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AVI Laboratory Series | £1399 | ★★★★★

FOR
Excellent detail resolution; impressive power and dynamics; solid build

AGAINST
Control buttons could be more precise

VERDICT
This is a fabulous amplifier that doesn't put a foot wrong. It combines muscle with subtlety beautifully

THIS IS THE one to beat. AVI's Laboratory Series Integrated is the present holder of our Best Buy Award at this price point and, aside from the cumbersome name, leaves little room for criticism. This is a surprising product in many ways. It's compact, yet delivers the mightiest output in this group with a rating of 175 watts per channel. These aren't paper watts either, as this integrated really does sound more powerful than its rivals and has no trouble taking charge of any speaker connected to its terminals.

What does this mean to you? It means the AVI keeps its composure longer than most rivals as volume rises. It doesn't harden up when pushed, and delivers the stirring crescendos of *The Two Towers* soundtrack with the kind of conviction most rivals can't match.

These talents earn the Laboratory Series Integrated plenty of respect, but they're not the reason we like it so much. The AVI is special because it doesn't sacrifice finesse for muscle. Detail resolution is excellent, as shown by the way this amp picks out low-level subtleties. The emotion in Jeff Buckley's voice on the live version of *Hallelujah* is undiluted, as is the sense of space on the recording. The compelling thing about this AVI is that it balances these strengths in a way that puts music first. It has no strong character of its own, so the result is a faithful reproduction of the input signal. If that's flawed in some way that's exactly the way this amp will sound. But take care, and use a good enough source – consider Cyrus CD8 or Meridian 507 level a minimum – and this electronic brick won't disappoint.

The Laboratory Series impresses in other areas, too. Build is rock solid – this amp feels as though it'll last decades of use – with a good finish and a high-enough feature count to cater for most two-channel set-ups.

The conclusion is simple: the AVI is a great-sounding amp that will work well in a wide range of systems. It'll take something extra special to beat this.

Moon I-3 | £1550 | ★★★★☆

FOR
Refinement, timing and dynamics; fluid presentation; lovely remote handset

AGAINST
Lacks the insight of the very best

VERDICT
The I-3 remains a strong contender despite the tough competition in this price sector

WE WISH MORE manufacturers would follow Moon's example. No rival in this test can match the class and feel of the I-3's metal remote handset. It's solid, beautifully shaped and easy to use. The rest of the amplifier ain't half bad either.

This price point demands top-class build and the I-3 doesn't disappoint. Finish is spot-on, and the clean control layout reinforces the air of class the amplifier exudes. Inside, a symmetrical circuit layout aims to help stereo imaging and there's a decent-sized transformer to deliver the claimed 100 watt per channel output.

Moon believes high-feedback electronic designs reduce dynamics and transparency, so the I-3 uses no overall feedback. Another Moon priority is minimising signal paths to maximise signal purity.

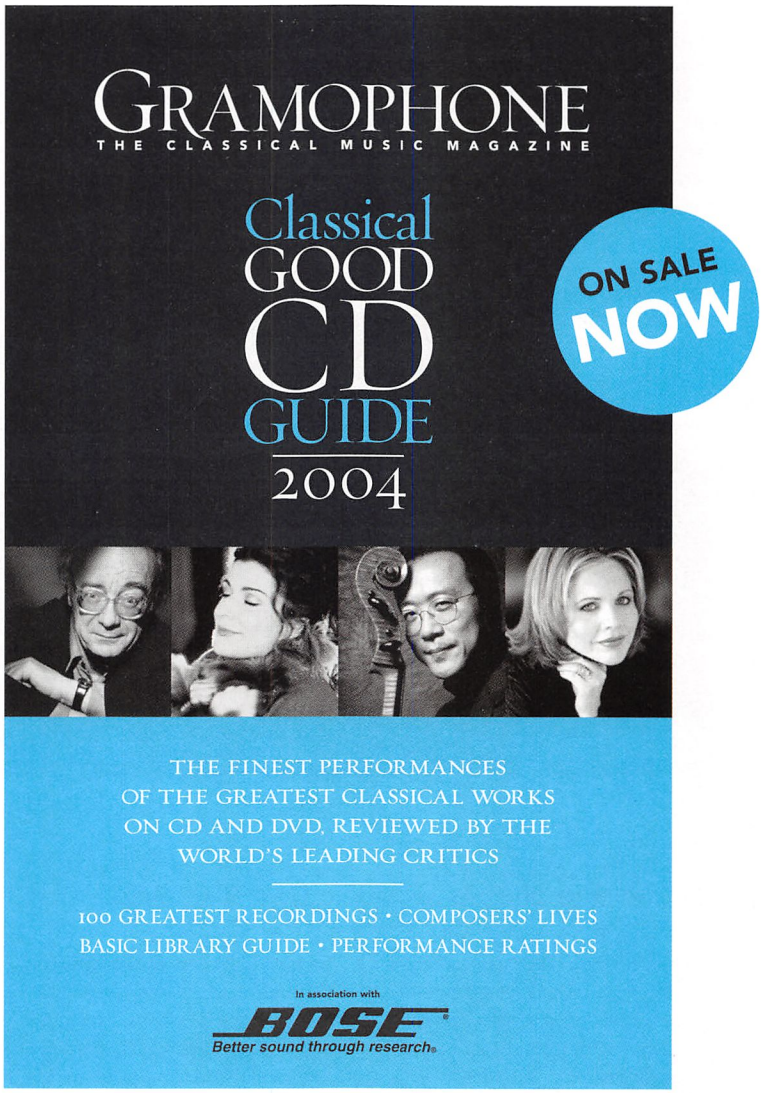
The result of these philosophies is a lively, refined amp with the knack of focusing the listener's attention firmly on the music. For this to happen dynamics and timing have to be first-class, and they are. The I-3 is an expressive amp able to deliver the full dose of emotion from Jeff Buckley's live set. The creamy mid-band presentation gives Buckley's vocals plenty of presence and body, while its sweet high-end minimises any undue harshness in the recording.

Move on to something harder hitting such as Massive Attack's *100th Window* and it's the Moon's fluid handling of rhythms that impresses: few rivals at this price point can latch onto a beat as effectively. Low frequencies are taut and tuneful, too.

Overall detail levels are good, but this is where rivals such as the AVI Laboratory Series and Orelle SA100evo pull ahead. Judged against these standards the I-3 lacks a little definition and doesn't position instruments with the same focus as the class leaders.

Don't get us wrong. We still like this amplifier a lot and think that its blend of refinement, timing and dynamics is highly appealing. The Moon may have lost a star but in most ways it still shines brightly.

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR THE CLASSICAL MUSIC ENTHUSIAST



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GCDG04

Orelle SA100evo £1200 ★★★★½

FOR
Open, detailed and dynamic presentation; classy appearance

AGAINST
Finish a little rough edged

VERDICT
The SA100evo is an immensely talented product that's good enough to worry the class leaders

MANY OF YOU may not have heard of Orelle. We're not surprised – the company has been quiet of late, but it's back with a new range and determined to recapture past glories.

Its build quality is decent enough, though finish is just a little less polished than we'd expect at this price. Just check out the untidy machining on the remote sensor hole or the unfinished feel where the curve meets the top edge on the front panel.

Once warmed, any doubts about the Orelle's ability to compete disappear. This is an open, detailed amp of considerable ability: it challenges the likes of the AVI when it comes to outright detail resolution, and manages to present it in an enticingly cohesive and informative manner. Initial impressions are that this amplifier lacks bass, and is consequently a little lightweight in presentation. But take a longer listen and you'll find the low frequencies are unusually agile and well defined. Their crisp nature and the lack of overhang is what suggests the lack of authority. Low-frequency precision is spellbinding and makes following complex basslines from, say, Massive Attack's *Future Proof* a breeze.

This is an amplifier that excels at subtleties; low-level nuances that convey emotion in a voice are easy to hear, as are background instruments in a busy mix. The result is that a whole range of music, from Jeff Buckley's *Grace Live EP* to *The Two Towers*, enchants the listener with the wealth of insight on offer.

There's also enough punch to keep hip-hop and rock fans happy. Timing is crisp, so rhythms are delivered in a taut, exciting manner. This amp outputs 80 watts per channel – less than most rivals – but it'll work well with most price-compatible speakers.

If Orelle continues to make products of this ability it won't be long before it becomes a major force. The SA100evo could do with a cosmetic tidy up but sonically it can hold its own here. If you want a fast, detailed-sounding amp with bags of refinement, give this a serious listen.

Primare A30.1 £1500 ★★★★½

FOR
Top-class build/finish; clean, crisp delivery

AGAINST
Newer rivals have highlighted a couple of minor sonic shortcomings

VERDICT
Primare's A30.1 remains one of our favourites at this price level despite the arrival of tough new competition

WHEN IT COMES to shop-floor appeal, the Primare has this test sewn up. No other amp here can match its build, finish and feel – and then there are controls that work with rare precision and a low-key digital display.

In recent years this amp's been a regular fixture in our reference set-ups, and it's never let us down when it comes to system matching. There are two reasons for this: first, this amplifier is a lot more muscular than its 100 watt per channel specification would suggest, and so has no trouble driving difficult speaker loads to high volume levels. Second, the A30.1 has an even-handed presentation that highlights the quality of the partnering kit rather than the amp itself.

It helps that the A30.1 doesn't do anything badly either. It digs up plenty of detail, so delivers commendable insight into heavily layered music like *The Two Towers* or the Massive Attack CD. Low frequencies go deep with authority and have an impressive turn of speed when the music demands. Move up and the midrange continues the good work with its control, composure and subtlety. Vocals are articulate and harmonically rich instruments have plenty of bite.

The arrival of newer competition – particularly the AVI and Moon amps here – highlight the Primare's slightly mechanical manner of conveying rhythms. They have plenty of snap but don't flow as convincingly as these rivals. The A30.1's top-end is informative but lacks the refinement and richness of the class leaders, too.

However, the A30.1's broad spread of talents and superb build mean it remains an excellent proposition.

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Winner AVI Laboratory Series | £1399 | ★★★★★

THERE ARE NO losers here. All four amplifiers deliver more detail and greater dynamics than the class leaders in the next price category down, and build is typically more solid, too.

However, there is a clear pecking order. Both the Primare A30.1 and Moon I-3 drop a star. They haven't suddenly become flawed products, but newer rivals offer just that bit more for the money. The Primare is an old favourite of ours and continues to deliver a formidable blend of top-class build, stylish aesthetics and powerful sound. It's still a great amp, but its presentation doesn't quite match the fluidity and insight of the class leaders.

The story is much the same for Moon's I-3. This is still an appealing product with a rich, liquid midrange and enviable refinement. It also has a lovely sense of timing, so rhythms bounce along with enthusiasm. Add neat cosmetics and an excellent remote handset into the equation and the I-3 remains a tempting product. However, you can buy better.

Though it's the cheapest here, the Orelle has little to fear. Aside from some gripes about finish, which we hope the company will sort quickly, it can stand toe to toe with any competitor in this test without embarrassment. The SA100evo is a precise, fast and tuneful electronic box that delivers the most detail here. All it lacks is a touch of thunder– a quality that the AVI Laboratory Series integrated has in spades.

> "A brick of an amp that will drive just about any speaker properly, and with the kind of finesse few amps possess"

The AVI is a brick of an amplifier that gets close to the Orelle in outright detail but adds extra muscle and control to the mix. The result is an amplifier that will drive just about any speaker properly and has the kind of finesse very few amps anywhere near this price possess. That's why it wins.

	AVI Laboratory Series	Moon I-3	Orelle SA100evo	Primare A30.1
WHAT'S IT GOT?	TEST WINNER			
Price	£1399	£1550	£1200	£1500
Inputs	Five line level	Six line level	Five line level	Six line level
Remote control	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tape Loops	One	One	One	One
Headphone	No	No	No	No
Tone controls	No	No	No	No
Power output	175 watts per channel	100 watts per channel	80 watts per channel	100 watts per channel
WHAT WE GAVE IT...				
Sound	★★★★★	★★★★½	★★★★★	★★★★½
Build	★★★★½	★★★★½	★★★½☆	★★★★★
Features	★★★½☆	★★★½☆	★★★½☆	★★★★½
VERDICT	★★★★★	★★★★½	★★★★½	★★★★½

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Meridian 507
£1195 ★★★★★
March 2003
Meridian's entry-level model delivers a performance surprisingly close to the firm's top-end players and is built beautifully.

ATC SCM 12
£1000 ★★★★★
June 2003
These are among our favourite speakers. They don't look special but take a listen and they'll prove otherwise.

We tested them with | **CD players** Krell KAV 280cd, Cyrus CD8 **speakers** PMC IB2, Wilson Benesch Discovery, ATC SCM 12, **Cables** QED and Atlas

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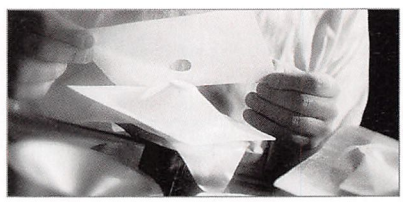

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Test DVDs: November

The latest discs that'll let your home cinema system shine

The Fifth Element Special Edition

Pathé | Cert PG

LUC BESSON'S IMAGINATIVE sci-fi masterpiece has been polished for this double-disc set that boasts a DTS soundtrack and more extras than you can shake a stick at.

Bruce Willis dons his action vest – this time a Jean-Paul Gaultier rubber one – in another bid to save the universe. Survival depends on the safety of the sometime gaffer-taped, always alluring Milla Jovovich, with Gary Oldman in bonkers baddie mode and comic relief from Chris Tucker.

The Fifth Element is an aesthetic eye opener that'll test the colour abilities of any home cinema system – in particular the vibrant aerial chase through a futuristic New York: sort of a psychedelic *Bladerunner*.

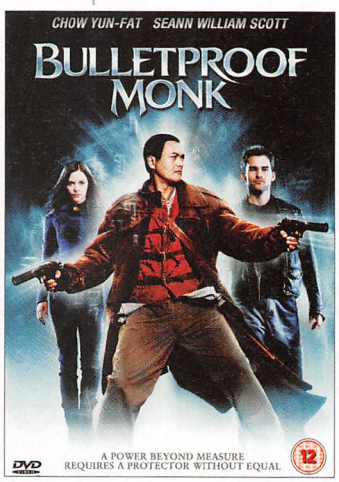
And as well as sumptuous visuals, that remastered DTS soundtrack is full of spectacular explosions and an awesome opera scene that's one of our top testers. Tres bien all round.

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1, DTS
VISION 2.35:1 Anamorphic
EXTRAS Special effects commentary, 'making-of' documentaries, Besson's Sixth Element essay

If you're after a surround sound tester, the remastered Diva scene in DTS is a corker

Bulletproof Monk

Fox Pathe | Cert 12



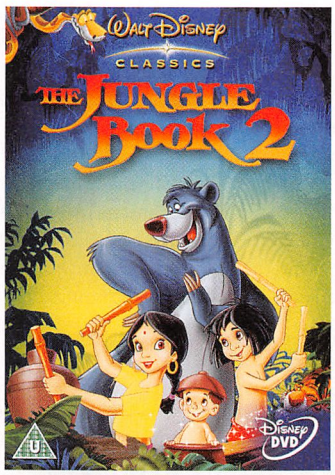
BULLETPROOF MONK TELLS of the unlikely association between martial artist Chow Yun-Fat and *American Pie*'s Seann William "Stifler" Scott in this no-brain, kung-fu flick based on a little-known comic book.

There's plenty of fist-flying action – with every movement accompanied by the usual over-exaggerated swishing effects – to test your system, but unless you're a hormonally charged adolescent the story just doesn't, er, kick it. *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* it certainly ain't...

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1
VISION 2.35:1 Anamorphic

The Jungle Book 2

Disney | Cert U



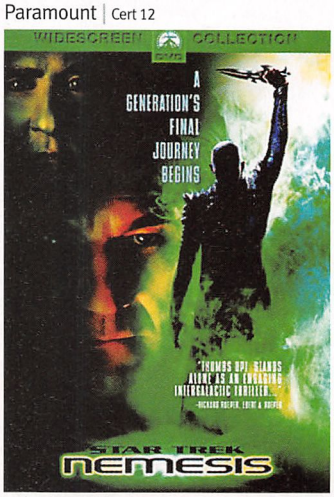
THE HOUSE OF Mouse must be short of ideas with Disney releasing another animated sequel that falls short of the first. Man-cub Mowgli is reunited with his feral foster family – cue more monkey musical extravaganzas and moral messages.

Enhanced animation techniques gift the sequel with an even richer palette of colours than the original and the sound is THX-mastered, too, although jungle music has taken a different direction since the original... So, a decent tester, but not a bare necessity.

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1
VISION 1.85:1 Anamorphic

Star Trek Nemesis

Paramount | Cert 12



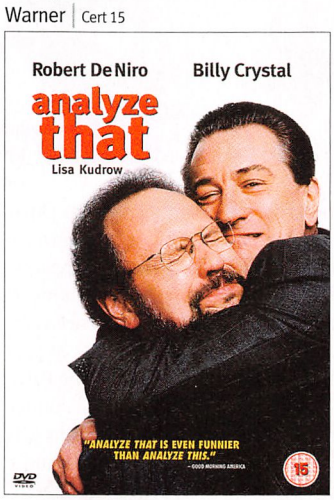
THE USS ENTERPRISE embarks on what is likely to be its final voyage with Patrick Stewart's dome head at the helm. This time Picard must battle a younger clone of himself with a chip on his shoulder the size of a jacket potato.

The picture transfer is deliberately darker than earlier installments and is a good test of the deepness of your TV or projector's blacks. And the Dolby soundtrack is particularly effective, especially during a 'space off' that has the beloved Enterprise ramming the enemy Scimitar ship.

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1
VISION 2.35:1 Anamorphic

Analyze That

Warner | Cert 15



ROBERT DE NIRO and Billy Crystal reprise their comedy roles in this *Sopranos*-esque sequel about a mobster and his reluctant psychiatrist. While 'Bobby D' isn't renowned for his comic timing, the on-screen chemistry he shares with Crystal – supported by a cracking script full of sharp one-liners – leads to more than one laugh-out-loud moment, so this is well worth a watch.

In test terms the dialogue-heavy soundtrack won't ignite any sonic fireworks, apart from giving your centre channel an extended workout.

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1
VISION 1.85:1 Anamorphic

Drooling over a tasty Italian

Gorgeous looks and a magical sound make this amp one of the best we've heard – we think we've found a £2495 bargain

Pathos Logos

★★★★★ £2495

FOR

Stunning appearance and build; gorgeous midrange performance; refinement with plenty of punch

AGAINST

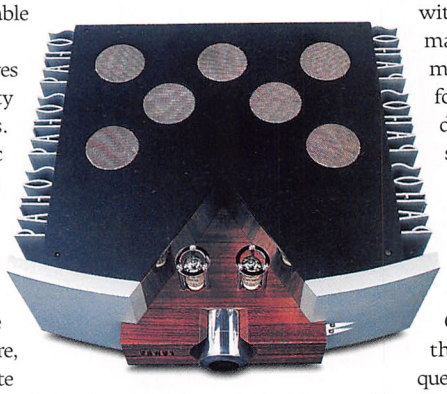
Low bass is slightly rich, but that's our only gripe

VERDICT

The Logos looks magnificent and sounds even better. Build quality is superb, too. A brilliant piece of engineering

ACCORDING TO THE Collins English dictionary, the word 'logos' has two meanings: 'the divine Word' (its Christian meaning) or 'the source of order in the universe'. Either way it's a lofty name for an amp, even if it does have an enviable spread of ability.

One look at the Logos proves that aesthetics are a priority for Italian company Pathos. This amp is as much a sonic sculpture as it is a listening tool, but thankfully the quest for style hasn't spoilt usability. The digital volume display is easy to see from a distance and the control layout is intuitive. Sure, the attractive wooden remote handset would benefit from some labelling, but it doesn't take long to remember what the four buttons do.



Pathos has created a special-looking amplifier

And the finish is simply beautiful: Pathos clearly takes a lot of pride in its products. Take a close look at the casework, central wooden insert on the front panel or the remote and even the most critical would have little to complain about. This kind of quality compares well with components that sell at two or even three times the price.

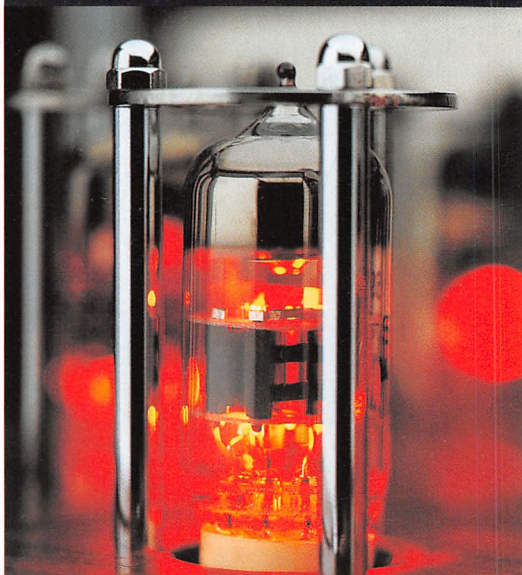
Don't let the minimalist controls fool you. The Logos isn't the stripped-down device it appears. A remote control, six line-level inputs, including two balanced and a tape loop won't have the typical AV amp quaking in its case, but these features should be enough to cater for most high-end hi-fi set-ups.

System matching shouldn't be a problem, either. The Logos outputs a healthy 110 watts per channel into 8 ohms, which doubles as impedance halves. The result is an amp that works well with a wide range of speakers, including our reference trio of ATC SCM 12s, PMC's IB2s and Wilson Benesch's Discoverys. In each case the character of the speakers takes centre stage, suggesting the Logos doesn't stamp its own personality on the signal: this is only possible if an amplifier has an even tonal balance.

This quality shines through with the soundtrack of *The General's Daughter*, where the Pathos delivers the scale and authority of the main theme with ease. Nothing in the presentation jars: it combines excitement and refinement, resolution and punch. The result is a musical chameleon that works well across the board. Want bone-crunching dynamics? Play a suitable recording and that's exactly what you'll get, without the edgy quality that many rivals produce. The midrange verges on magical for the price, while low-level dynamics are also impressive: Nina Simone has seldom sounded so sultry.

But the good news doesn't stop there – this cultured Italian has a tough side, too. Give 50 Cent's *In Da Club* a spin and there's plenty of low-frequency punch on offer, and the kind of timing that only a few rivals, notably from Cyrus and Naim, can match. Our only complaint is minor: very low bass is a touch too rich to offer the class-leading articulation so apparent in the rest of the frequency range. But with most speakers this merely adds weight; you'll need boxes that dig as deep as PMC's IB2s or ATC's SCM 50s to show up this minute flaw.

Even then the Pathos's broad spread of talents makes it a front runner at this price. It's not hard to find glamorous-looking hi-fi, but this amp proves that great sound and stunning looks are possible. The Logos is a high-end bargain.★



Did you know?

■ Pathos's chief engineer Gianni Borinato, who's a guitarist, met the company's industrial designer, Paolo Andriolo – a pianist – when they were students.

■ Pathos is based in Vicenza, northern Italy. Vicenza is also home to another well-known valve specialist, Unison Research.

■ The company's Twin Towers amp won the Design & Engineering Showcase Award in Japan in 1999, but its name has since understandably been shortened to TT.

Unsurprisingly for an Italian manufacturer, style is high on the agenda for Pathos, but there's lots of substance behind the classy looks

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14 pages of hi-fi and home cinema tips and solutions

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INSIDE

The A-Z of building the perfect system

Your letters

Five pages of your problems – solved 118

Hi-fi advice

Hi-fi system builder 124
The ABC of putting together a great separates system

Recommended systems 126
Our top budget, midprice and high-end separates set-ups

Beyond CD, amp and speakers... 127
The options if you want to add a tuner or recorder

Home cinema advice

Home cinema system builder 128
How to set-up your TV, DVD, receiver and speakers

Expanding your AV system 131
The best way to add satellite, games and recording kit

Fine-tuning your system 133
All the expert tips you need to get the best performance

Recommended systems 135
Our favourite budget, midrange and high-end systems

HI-FI SYSTEMS

CAN AN ALL-IN-ONE SET-UP BEAT MY HI-FI SEPARATES?

SYSTEM···› Technics SL-PG200a CD player, Toshiba SA-300 tuner amp, Akai SW-42 speakers

PROBLEM···› I was considering buying a new amp and speakers, but I was attracted to the all-in-one Denon D-M31 hi-fi system.

Do you reckon it would satisfy my requirements and perhaps even outperform my present set- up, bearing in mind that separates are the way to go for better quality?

I'm a musician, so I'm after a fairly good sound, but I'd be using the system in the kitchen where the positioning of speakers is limited.

Stewart Bradley
Galway, Ireland

IS THE TEAC A BETTER DEAL THAN THE DENON D-M31?

SYSTEM···› Panasonic SA-AK20 hi-fi system

PROBLEM···› I'm in the market for a CD/radio micro system for a small bedroom currently being used as our office, so I read your group test on micro systems (October issue) with interest. However, I was disappointed that you didn't include the latest Denon – the D-M31.

My local hi-fi store doesn't have the D-M31 in stock, but says the TEAC Legacy 600 is better and a bargain at £200. Is this true?

Christopher Casey
Plymouth, Devon

WE SAY···› Two questions, one answer, and in both cases, the Denon D-M31 is the way to go, having both style and the performance to embarrass many a separates-based hi-fi systems in the sub-£500 arena. There's no way you're going to buy a separates system for the price of the Denon, or be able to match it on sound quality and convenience. While the TEAC Legacy 600 is tempting at £200, we'd still go for the Denon.

The D-M31 is available as a CD-receiver alone (£230), or as a package with matching Mission-made SC-M51 speakers for £300. We've tried the system with both the SC-M51s and with some other combinations – including some very large and upmarket speakers with which it just shouldn't work – and every time it amazed us.

The Denon was one of the most obvious Product of the Year choices in this year's Awards, and we stick by our decision. Buy it and you won't be disappointed.

Denon's D-M31: the answer to everyone's prayers, or two at least!

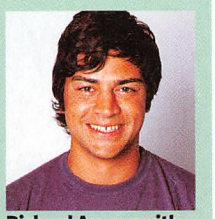
Contact our experts

Andrew Everard
Group technical and online editor

Ketan Bharadia
Hi-fi and first tests editor

Andy Kerr
Home cinema tests editor

Murdo Mathewson
Staff writer



Richard Arrowsmith
Staff writer

Write What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision, 38-42 Hampton Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 OJE
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Phone 020 8267 5900 Lines are open on Fridays, from 3.30-5.30pm

HI-FI TUNERS

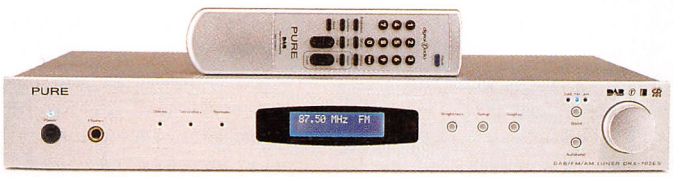
DO I NEED BOTH DIGITAL AND ANALOGUE TUNERS?

PROBLEM ···› I'm trying to build a good hi-fi separates system and need to add a tuner. Is it worth getting the Denon TU-260L MkII analogue tuner and Cambridge Audio DAB500 digital tuner for £280 or the Pure Digital DRX-702es for £330 which will give both analogue and digital reception?

Also, you don't do very many articles on MiniDisc separates and I was wondering about your view on the Sony MDS-JE980 recorder.
Nick Barrett
Tonbridge, Kent

WE SAY ···› We'd consider the Denon and Cambridge as an either/or unless there really are analogue- or digital-only stations you can't live without. After all, whether you buy the Denon/Cambridge combo or the Pure you're going to need to invest in two aerials to get the most from them, which could easily add another £150-200 to the budget. If you can afford that, and want the greatest convenience, we'd go for the Pure Digital tuner, which is an excellent analogue tuner as well as being one of the best digital radios around. We think the extra £50 over the price of the two boxes is money well spent on quality terms, as well as keeping the clutter down.

We haven't reviewed many MiniDisc components for a while as we feel the latest-generation CD-R/RW machines offer better sound for the money, but of its kind the MDS-JE980 is rather good, based on our limited auditioning of it, and MD has come a long way since its early iterations. If you want the editing facilities and the portability of the completed discs, it's a good buy.



Pure's excellent hybrid tuner should suit Nick's needs

HI-FI AMPLIFIERS

WILL BIWIRING OR BIAMPING BE BEST?

PROBLEM ···› I'm about to upgrade my system and am considering Cyrus' integrated and pre/power amps. Is it better to use a pre/power combo and biwire; or an integrated unit biamped with an extra power amp?
Mike Tadman
Chelmsford, Essex

WE SAY ···› Well Mike, if you're buying speakers that don't support biwiring, the preamp/power amp route is the one to go for, as this offers the purest signal path.

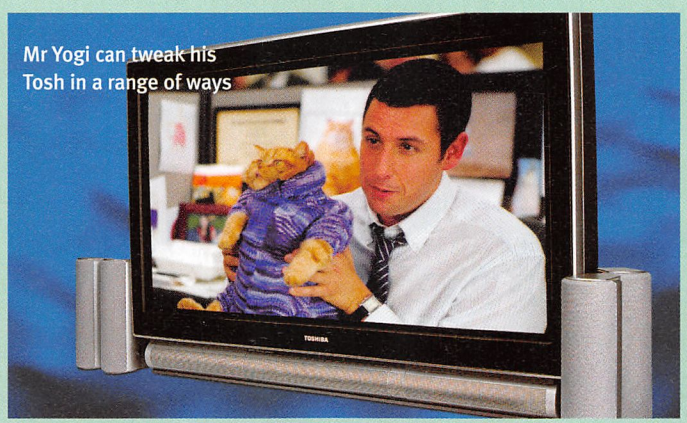
But if you're buying biwirable speakers, then in general terms such boxes sound better when biwired – and even better biamped, where you should expect gains in clarity, focus and punch.

We suggest opting for one of the new Cyrus integrated amps (the 6 or 8) plus the firm's SmartPower power amp to biamp the speakers. We'd use the SmartPower to drive the treble and the integrated to drive the bass, but experiment with doing things the other way round, as you may prefer the sound.

Seek out a helpful Cyrus stockist and try both the biamp and pre/power options, but bear in mind that you could always go for the former option and then upgrade to a pre and two powers later, using the integrated amp as a preamp.

Will a change of settings make more of my TV?

SYSTEM ···› Toshiba 36ZP18P TV
PROBLEM ···› I'm happy with my TV, but I want to know if there's a way I can squeeze more from it? Is there an order in which one should change these settings? Is there a recognised method to colour calibration, and is there a DVD to help?
Mr Yogi
via the website


Mr Yogi can tweak his Tosh in a range of ways

WE SAY ···› There are several useful resources out there. Best is the Digital Video Essentials set-up and calibration DVD, recently released in a Region Two version for the UK's PAL colour system. You can use the disc to configure other displays too, including plasmas and projectors, and there's a great 'talk-through' narrative to help you through each step. In our view, £15 well spent (check out sites like Play.com and Amazon if you can't find it on the shelves).

Alternatively, most THX-certified discs include a video (and audio) calibration section called the Optimode, and while not as comprehensive as DVE, it includes some effective video adjustment guidelines, all supported by useful instructions on how to do the job. Discs with Optimode include *Treasure Planet*, *Star Wars I* and *II* and *Terminator II*.

No luck? Then it's down to eyes and 'rules of thumb'. Virtually every TV is factory preset to perform in a brightly lit shop-floor environment, so the brightness, contrast and colour controls are normally boosted too high. Using the rule that the maximum figure for each of the three key elements of a picture is 100 percent, set the brightness to about 35-40 percent, contrast between 60-65 percent, and colour around 40-45 percent.

Work on that as a starting point; as a broad rule of thumb, it usually works. Try to play anything that juxtaposes bright red with skin tones – *The Mummy Returns* is a good disc to try. You need to tweak the colour so the reds look red, but the skin tones remain natural, rather than overly pink.

HI-FI STEREO AMPLIFIERS

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO UPGRADE MY AMPLIFIER?

PROBLEM ···› I've been wondering about stereo amplifier upgrade paths. I currently have an Arcam A65+ with which I'm very happy, but when I can afford it I'll probably look at upgrading the amp – what's the wisest way to spend my money?

Assuming I have £500 to spend, should I add a £500 power amplifier to the Arcam, or instead retire it and buy a new £500 amp (or maybe even a £600+ one if I can trade the A65+ in)?

Mark Stradling
London

WE SAY ···› Well Mark, the obvious question is why you'd want to upgrade your kit when you're very happy with the amplifier you've got – in the absence of information about the rest of your hi-fi system it's a bit tricky to advise on whether such an upgrade would be the best way to spend your £500.

Marantz's Award-winning integrated amplifier could suit Mark's system

The A65+ isn't one of the stars of the Arcam range, and while one route would be to find a P75 power amplifier (£530) and use this to biamp your speakers – assuming they're of a biwirable design – we really wouldn't suggest using the A65+ as a preamplifer with another power amplifier, as we don't think this will bring major improvements to your system's sound.

A switch to Arcam's new A80 integrated amplifier (£600) may be one way to go, but we'd suggest some auditioning of that amp against your current one before you buy.

Other integrated amplifier choices in this kind of price range would include the Marantz PM7200 (£330) – a Best Buy in the 2003 *What Hi-fi? Sound and Vision* Awards – and more expensive models such as the Roksan Kandy MkIII (£550) or even the Cyrus 6 (£600), although all of these will give a more forthright sound than the rather relaxed Arcam. You could even consider one of TAG McLaren's entry-level models: we've seen the 60i (£549) and 60iRV (£895) at some very attractive prices recently.

HI-FI BUYING ABROAD

WILL UK HI-FI KIT WORK FINE ACROSS EUROPE?

PROBLEM ···› I want to buy a new system, comprising the Roksan Kandy Mk III CD player and amp with Wharfedale Pacific Evolution 30 speakers. I live in the Netherlands, where this system will cost me about €3475 (£2370). In the UK it adds up to £1750 (€2570), so I want to buy the system in your fine country.

Does the UK have the same electric current as the Netherlands (220-230V-50Hz) and is the plug the same? If not do you know a acceptable solution?

Wim Erdtsieck
The Netherlands

WE SAY ···› Well, that's one in the eye for the 'rip-off Britain' brigade, Wim. And the good news is that the UK voltage and frequency is the same as in your country, as indeed it is across Europe, give or take a few local variations in the 230-250V range, and all hi-fi equipment should handle that with no problems.

Even better, the Roksans use IEC mains input plugs on their rear panels, so while we in Britain use plugs with three square pins and yours have round pins, all you need to do is buy two new round-pin-to-female-IEC cables and you're in business. We reckon the £620 you're saving should more than cover that – a cable only costs a few pounds, or about £50 or so for an entry-level audiophile mains cable. A local hi-fi retailer or electrical shop should be able to sort you out.

The only thing to check is whether the products you buy will be serviced by your local Roksan and Wharfedale distributor in the rare event you have problems with any component. Roksan's distributor in The Netherlands is Monitor Audio Netherland B.V., tel (+31) 356 295 491, but Wharfedale doesn't list one, so a call to the company in the UK on +44 (0)1480 447700 should clarify the situation.

Help me build a loud, proud system

PROBLEM ···› I have a budget of around £500 to buy an amplifier, CD player and some decent speakers, but I need some help in choosing a system that will be loud, proud and good for Asian tracks, bhangra, rap, hip hop and R'n'B.

I am toying between the Marantz PM6010 & PM7200, and I want to know which is the better of the two. The PM7200 is a big beast but also quite a good one from all the reviews I have read. If it were your money and you were going to buy one which one would you choose?

I have already chosen the Marantz CD5400 CD player and Wharfedale 8.3 speakers. I also looked at NAD equipment, which sounded a bit too cathedral-like, and Rotels which I haven't heard, but would prefer to stick to the Marantz components for their sheer good looks and build quality.

Harminder Singh Lall
via email

WE SAY ···› Ain't gonna happen, Harminder! The Wharfedales are £200, or about £150 if you do some serious shopping around, while we've seen the Marantz player for about £130, although it's more commonly around £150.

That's already soaked up £300-£350 of your £500 budget, and there's no way you're going to get a PM7200 for £150-£200. The best price we could find for it was £230, which we have to admit amazed us a bit as it's more likely you're going to pay £300 or more if you buy from a high street dealer.

We'd suggest that the PM6010 is the way to go if you want to stick to Marantz, or alternatively the NAD C521BEE CD player used with Rotel's RA-01 amplifier.

Together they'll cost you around £400 or so, so it's back to a bit of bargain-hunting and budget reassessment, not forgetting that you'll need to spend at least £25 on some interconnects – see this month's test (p98) for an idea on those – and at least the same on some decent speaker cable. The Wharfedales definitely take it on bang for the buck, and will suit your needs perfectly – good hunting when it comes to finding amps and CD players to get your room jumping within your budget!

NAD's Best Buy budget CD player – the C521BEE – is a real bargain

AV SPEAKERS

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY OF ADDING A SIXTH SPEAKER?

SYSTEM ···› Marantz SR4300 receiver, Yamaha speakers

PROBLEM ···› I'm looking to put a sixth speaker into my current setup to make the most of the 6.1 capability of my Marantz SR4300 receiver. Should I stick to the Yamaha range for the extra speaker or could I get another make for this purpose?

Vernon
via the website

WE SAY Shame you didn't tell us which make of Yamaha speakers you own, Vernon, but unless you're especially disappointed with the sound they currently make, we'd suggest you stay with them.

Multichannel sound tends to be more convincing and 'three-dimensional' when the sounds you hear are tonally consistent as they travel around the room, which is why we commonly recommend buying a complete package, rather than mixing and matching brands to create a speaker system.

That's also why many home cinema purists believe that the very best systems use identical speakers throughout, both at the front and the rear of the room. That's identical in terms of both make and design, whether stand-mounters or floorstanders. So stick with Yamaha.

If you opt for a different make of speaker, even if on paper it appears to be a superior design, the chances are it won't sound tonally similar to those you're getting from the rest of your set-up, and in an instant, your surround sound system will sound less convincing.

But don't let us put you off – the benefits of extended surround, even with standard 5.1 discs, are really worth exploring.

HI-FI SYSTEM UPGRADE

WHICH SYSTEM WOULD SUIT MY CLASSIC TASTES?

SYSTEM ···› NAD C520 CD player, Arcam A60 amp; Rogers LS1 speakers

PROBLEM ···› I'm about to spend some of the kids' inheritance on a new system, and what I have in mind is the Cyrus 6, Roksan Kandy MkIII and Wharfedale Pacific Evolution 30s. As my preference is for classical music, (with occasional forays into heavy rock, blues and country), the main consideration will be detail and sound quality rather than bells and whistles. Would this be a good choice?

Stan Jenkinson
via email

WE SAY ···› Well, you have a half-decent system, though we expect the balance is on the warm and lush side of neutral. So you need to be careful when buying a modern replacement that you don't get something overly bright and fast, at least by comparison with what you have now. And we have a sneaking suspicion that's how a system using the Cyrus player, Roksan amp and Wharfedale speakers might sound, a situation exacerbated by the fact that all these components have a very hard edge 'straight from the box' and take some running-in to settle down.

Stick with the Wharfedales – they're very fine speakers indeed, but we'd suggest you consider some player/amp alternatives. Instead of the Cyrus we'd suggest the cheaper Arcam CD73T, NAD C542 and Rotel RCD-02 players, along with older favourites such as the Marantz CD6000KI, which is available at bargain prices, and even 'last generation' Arcams such as the CD92T.

Meanwhile we'd suggest you have a listen to amps like the Marantz PM7200, which has a smooth, controlled yet powerful delivery ideally suited to classical music, the Audio Analogue Puccini, which is another sweet-sounding model, and Exposure's still very good 2010.

We're confident these will suit you better, and while you're at it you should also listen to Tannoy's explicit and involving Revolution R3 speakers and Monitor Audio's fine Silver S6s, which will be especially good in larger rooms.

More questions than answers, we know, but if you're condemning the kids to a life of poverty, it's worth the time and effort to get the kit right.

Forget the kids, what Stan needs is an Arcam CD73T as part of his system upgrade

What should drive my DJ decks?

PROBLEM ···› I've decided to ditch my old hi-fi (as it's rubbish) and purchase a brand spanking new one. I have conducted extensive research through the magazine and I have come up with the following pieces of equipment that would seem to fit my requirements: Arcam A85 amplifier and FMJ CD32T CD player, to be used with PMC FB1 speakers.

My musical tastes are dance oriented and I'll be connecting a Technics SL1210s and a preamp through the system as I DJ as well, but I do listen to chill out and would like a system that sounds great with both.

What does this combination sound like? Can you recommend a system of comparable price? Is this amp good and powerful enough for the CD player and speakers?

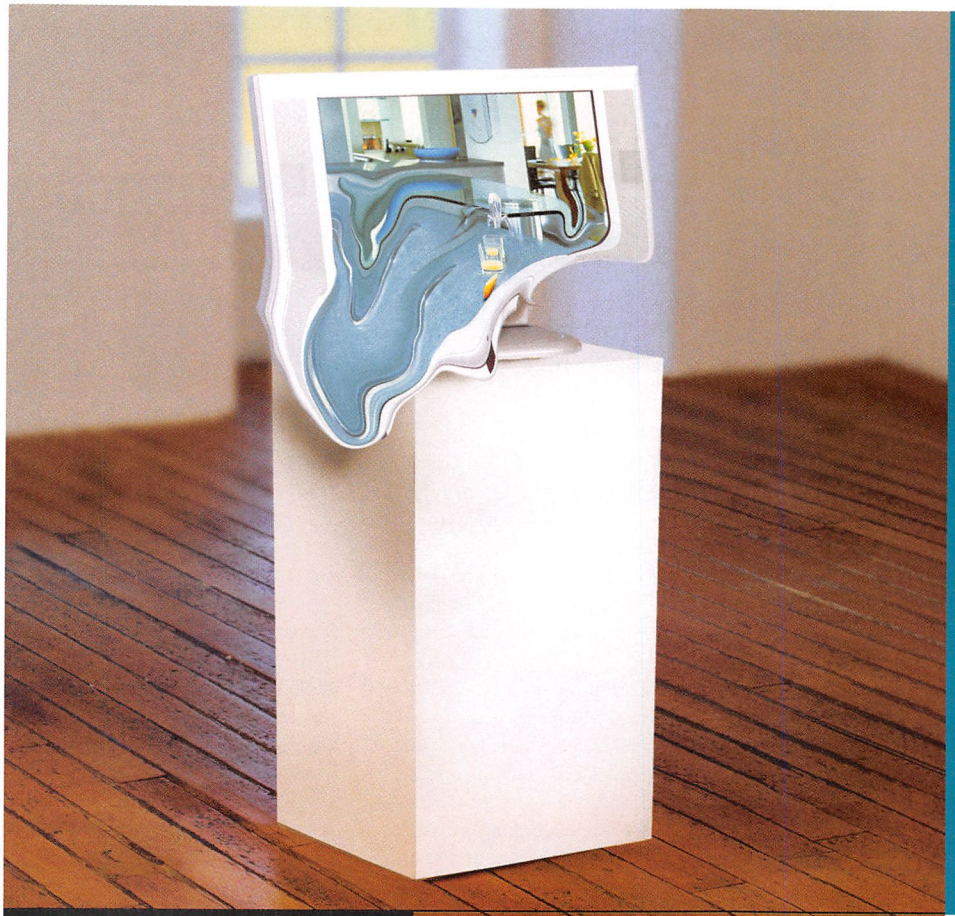
Philip Almasari
London

WE SAY ···› We don't have any problems with your system, Philip, as we reckon the A85 and FB1s will work together very well indeed – both for everyday listening and as an outlet for those DJ decks.

The PMCs benefit from use with an amplifier having plenty of clout, and the Arcam will certainly fit this bill, having enough power for dance music while at the same time sufficient control when it comes to chill-out tunes.

We'd suggest you look into biamping the speakers by adding a matching Arcam P85 power amplifier to the system, as the PMCs respond particularly well to this approach, but beyond that we reckon you're definitely on the right track.

Philip's Technics decks will benefit from the power and control of the Arcam/PMC pairing



RELISYS: as seen by Dali

Melt away in reverie whilst watching your favourite programmes. The RLT1720 is a display for all seasons with a multitude of inputs.

RELISYS

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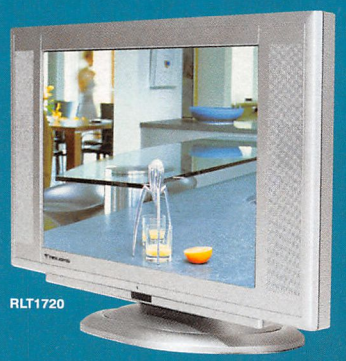
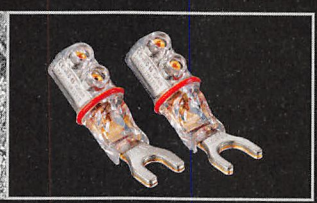


www.relisys.com
email: sales@teco-info.co.uk

Tel: 0161 232 6000
Please quote reference SV1103 on all correspondence.

THE ART OF CONNECTION



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AV/HI-FI SPEAKER SET-UPS

WHICH SPEAKER KITS SUIT BOTH MUSIC AND MOVIES?

SYSTEM ···› Denon AVR-3802 receiver, Denon DVD2800 MkII DVD player

PROBLEM ···› What speakers would work well with my electronics? I've only got a small room, and the package I buy must play both DVDs and CDs well. I like the Wharfedale Evo 30s and Monitor Audio Silver 8s, but I'm not sure if I should go for the KEF eggs.

JJ
via the website

WE SAY ···› Not Jermaine Jenas are you? Any chance of an autograph? Er... right, on with the business. You've got a great receiver – one that probably deserves a better speaker system than the KEF KHT2005, even in its new 'series II' form. You need to be thinking in terms of a package costing from £1000 up to £2000, because your receiver will comfortably cope.

If you've got a small room, we'll have to discount the Evo 30s, and also any package based on Monitor Audio's Silver 8s, because both designs will overpower you with their bass; they need room to sound their best. Instead, we'd be tempted by a system that used smaller main speakers, married to a good active subwoofer: that way, you can accurately control the level and character of the bass you put into the room, and adjust it to avoid any sonic undesirables like 'boom'.

That leads us to three suggestions. First, the ATC Concept One package, minus ATC's own subwoofer (which disappointed us when we reviewed it a few months ago). It costs £2000, subwoofer included, so the speakers alone should cost around £1300. Team that with the B&W ASW675 subwoofer (£650) for a blistering £2000 package that will suit both music and movies.

Too big? Consider M&K's ultra compact K-5 package instead, which costs £1715. It's very sophisticated, very compact and yet still able with both movies and music, although we should point out that the latter can sound a little too dry for some tastes. Too much? Our last suggestion: two pairs of Mission 780 stand-mounters with a Mission 78C centre channel. £950 the lot, and very musical too. Throw in a REL Q-150E MkII active subwoofer (£500), and presto: a high-quality compact home cinema set-up for under £1500.

Mission's 780s standmounters work well as satellites

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HI-FI SYSTEM BUILDER

Our simple guide to hooking up all your hi-fi kit

CD player

HOT OPTION **Arcam CD73T** £400 ★★★★★

Arcam has upgraded its CD72T and come up with this brilliant box of tricks. Exquisite refinement and dynamics make the '73T a worthy Product of the Year.

Amplifier

HOT OPTION **Roksan Kandy MkIII** £550 ★★★★★

Awesome power and subtlety combine to make the MkIII a magnificent all-round amp. Its timing is spot-on, detail resolution superb and casework top notch.

Things to look for when buying a CD player

Check the player can handle CD-R/W discs if you have a standalone CD recorder or PC with a CD-R drive.

A remote control is usually standard these days, but check it has programming so you can set the tracks to play in the order you want, and A/B repeat, which allows you to loop a section of music.

You'll need a digital output to record onto MiniDisc or CD-RW. There are two types: electrical (coaxial) and optical: the former offers the best sound quality.

A headphone socket is handy for listening at night, but make sure it has a volume control.

Display off lets you kill the track/time readout, which can cause interference. Some players sound better with it off.

CD multiplayers can take more than one disc, which makes them great for parties.

Variable output allows you to adjust the volume without using the amplifier – useful if your amp doesn't have its own remote control.

Things to look for when buying an amplifier

A/B speaker switching enables you to run a second pair of speakers into another room in the house.

Line inputs work with CD players, tape decks, tuners – but not turntables. A tape loop allows a recorder to be connected.

Phono inputs are required for connecting a turntable. Moving coil (MC) phono cartridges produce an even smaller signal than moving magnet (MM) ones, so make sure your amp's phono stage is suitable for your turntable.

More power isn't just about extra volume – it usually buys you more dynamic ability, too. It takes a huge increase in amplifier output to make the maximum level twice as loud. A 30-100w output is usually fine.

Tone controls can degrade the sound. If you must have them, look for a source-direct button to bypass them.

Preout sockets are volume-controlled phono outputs – handy for adding power amplifiers if you want to upgrade your system at a later date, or for biamping.

CABLE CORNER

The basic rule is to spend about 10 percent of the value of your system on cables and interconnects.

Phono (RCA)

Phono leads are the normal connection used between a source (CD player/cassette deck/tuner) and an amp. Free wires with red and white plugs are often supplied with a player, but it pays to buy better interconnects to improve the sound quality.

Coaxial

There are two types of digital cable for linking a CD player to a MiniDisc or CD-R recorder, or a DVD player to an AV amp. The coaxial (electrical) type is our preferred option. If necessary, you can purchase an optical-to-coaxial socket converter box from Digimate (Tel: 0118 984 4545). It's around £55.

Optical

The second type of digital connection uses pulses of light rather than electricity to transfer data. Some recorders only accept the optical connector, which is characterised by a special slot-in connector socket called a Toslink, shown above. It's normally protected by a pull-out dustcap.

DIN

German DIN standard multipin connectors (three to eight pins) are usually used for connecting pre and power amps; they're rarely found elsewhere these days. Naim still uses a locking version on its components, and cable companies can provide DIN-to-phono cables for older kit.

XLR

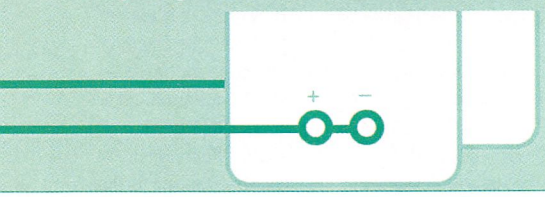
Three-pin type which locks on to the socket. Used for balanced connections.

BNC

Push and twist connector which is normally used for digital connections.

Speakers

HOT OPTION **Dynaudio Audience 52** £624 ★★★★★
These real-wood-finished standmount speakers have the muscle to party all night long but also the skill to maintain your attention at low volume levels.



Things to look for when buying speakers

Decide on size first. Do you want small standmount speakers or big floorstanders? Huge speakers in a small room (under 4x4m) sound awful, while small speakers will struggle to fill a big room with sound.
Match your amp to the speakers. First, look at the speakers' power handling. This is quoted as a range – eg 20-100w – so make sure your amp's power rating fits in that range. Also look at sensitivity: speakers with a high sensitivity are, in general, easier for an amplifier to drive than those with a low one. Most modern speakers have a sensitivity of between 87 and 92dB/w/m, which should be fine.
A low impedance draws a high current flow from the amplifier, while a high impedance draws less. Most speakers have an impedance of 6-8 ohms (see *Buying Guide*), but some dip to 4 ohms.
Look for good binding posts – twin sets of sockets allow biwiring or biamping to boost performance. Not all speakers have twin binding posts, so check before you buy.

What to put your system on

Speaker stands

Ensure your 'bookshelf' or standmounting speakers sound their very best by investing in a pair of sturdy speaker stands. These work by keeping the speakers static, so all the energy of the drivers is used to shift air, not move the cabinets. There are models to suit all pockets, from as little as £30. See *Buying Guide* (p245) for the stands we've tested.

Isolation platforms

Used beneath CD players, amplifiers and record players, isolation platforms will shield kit from external vibrations that can affect the sound quality. Squash balls, cut in half and placed under your equipment, are a cost-effective alternative. Or you can try Vibrapods from *www.stoneaudio.com*

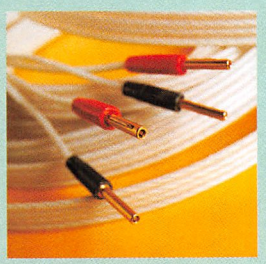
Equipment supports

Placing your kit on a hi-fi rack will bring improvements in soundstaging, bass extension and treble clarity. They come in all shapes and sizes and cost from around £50. Check out the Accessories section of our *Buying Guide* (p245) for ratings on a wide range of models.

SPEAKER CABLE

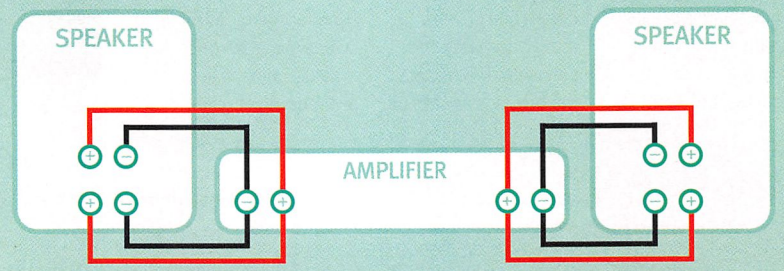
Single wire

Speaker cables come in all shapes and sizes, ranging in price from £1.99/metre up to £100+/metre. If your speakers have a single set of binding posts, then running a single strand of cable from the outputs on the amp to each speaker will suffice.



Biwire

If you want to biwire, your speakers will each need twin sets of terminals. You'll then need to run two sets of cables from the amp to each speaker, or buy a biwire cable with four plugs at the speaker end. Check our *Buying Guide* for a list of biwire cables.



How to biwire your speakers

Biwirable speakers have separate sets of inputs for treble and mid/bass, and a split crossover (or filter) to prevent the bass swamping the delicate treble signals. Run two sets of speaker cable from the left-channel terminals on the amp to the separate inputs on the back of the speaker, and the same on the right channel (see diagram above).

The next step up is to biamplify your speakers, for which you need two amps, one to drive the treble frequencies and the other the mid/bass frequencies: the usual configuration is an integrated amp with a matching power amp, or a preamp with two stereo power amps. It's important that the gain of the two amps is the same, or you'll get a tonal imbalance. Generally this method gives you a cleaner, more dynamic sound.

Our top three hi-fi systems

Want separates but worried about mixing and matching? Fear not – our team has assembled three spectacularly good Award-winning set-ups at price points to suit a variety of budgets

BUDGET £650

We've mixed and matched components to bring you this month's recommended budget system

You'll get an amazing sound from this £650 trio of Best Buy winners

CD PLAYER
NAD C521BEE
★★★★★ £200
Awards 2003
This revamped version of the Award-winning C521i is a 2003 Best Buy. It has a superb tonal balance for £200 and its dynamics and detail resolution are even more impressive than its predecessor's. Another great achievement by the NAD team.

AMPLIFIER
Rotel RA-01
★★★★★ £250
Awards 2003
The RA-01 is a fantastic bargain – it's identical to the £350 RA-02 but doesn't have a remote control. It has terrific bite and insight, and build quality is first-rate. Combined with the new NAD C521BEE it makes a formidable hi-fi separates package.

SPEAKERS
Monitor Audio Bronze B2
★★★★★ £200
Awards 2003
These stylish-looking bargain standmounters do everything right. They produce a wonderfully integrated sound with superbly balanced high frequencies and a great midrange. If you're after budget speakers look no further.

MIDRANGE £1329

Next step up the ladder? Here's one of the best midprice set-ups money can buy

CD PLAYER
Arcam CD73T
★★★★★ £400
Awards 2003
In our opinion the CD73T is the best all-round CD player of the year. It looks almost identical to the exceptional CD72T but offers an even more refined presentation. Add detail, sweeping dynamics and eye-watering reflexes and you've got a truly spectacular product.

AMPLIFIER
Roksan Kandy MkIII
★★★★★ £550
Awards 2003
This Best Buy beauty combines power and guile to stunning effect. The Kandy MkIII is muscular enough to get the most out of exciting music, but also has the ability to pull out the details and present them with clarity and precision. Timing and rhythm are also spot on.

SPEAKERS
Quad 11L
★★★★★ £379
Awards 2003
There's not much left to say about the Quad 11Ls. They won our speaker Product of the Year Award in 2002 and walked it this year, too. Awesome looks combine with brilliant performance, all for an amazingly low price. No rival comes close to offering such value.

The Roksan powerhouse combines perfectly with the Arcam and Quads

HIGH-END £3399

And if money's no object, throw caution to the wind and try this stunning combo

The Cyrus/AVI/ATC combo will keep you happy for many years to come

CD PLAYER
Cyrus CD8
★★★★★ £1000
Awards 2003
It looks the same as its predecessor – the CD7 – but its performance has been boosted in several ways. Beneath the silver case are improved digital-to-analogue converters and a better power supply. The result is a brilliantly detailed, powerful sound.

POWER AMPLIFIER
AVI Laboratory Series
★★★★★ £1399
Awards 2003
The AVI never lies: it's one of the most honest amps we've come across. It digs up layers of fine detail and delivers them in a superbly natural way. Many ultra-detailed amps sound clinical, but not the Laboratory series. Class-leading communication.

SPEAKERS
ATC SCM12
★★★★★ £1000
Awards 2003
If you want jaw-dropping sound quality you've got to listen to the SCM12s. They won't increase the beauty of your listening room, but who cares when the sound is so sublime? Tonal balance and transparency are second to none at this price.

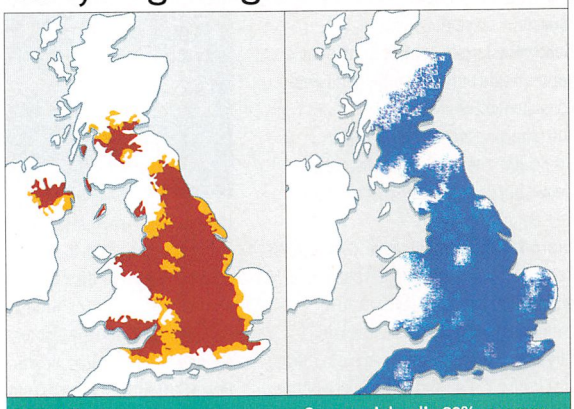
Hi-fi recording which format?

	Cassette	MiniDisc	MP3	CD-Recordable
VALUE	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
SOUND QUALITY	★★☆☆☆	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★★
DURABILITY	★★☆☆☆	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
AVERAGE PRICE	50p (90-minute tape)	80p-90p (74 minutes)	Free, or 50p-£1/track	CD-R (80p); CD-RW (£2)
PROS	Cheap; plenty of prerecorded tapes available; most cars have cassette players; small and light.	Digital (no hiss); easy to edit; light and robust; your recordings won't deteriorate over time.	Plenty of music available to download from the net; no tapes or discs; easy to rip your CDs to digital format.	Recordings virtually identical to the original; blank CD-R discs are getting cheaper, especially if you buy in bulk.
CONS	Can suffer from background hiss; tape tends to wear out with use; can't edit your recordings.	Can sound compressed; blank discs are slightly more expensive than cassette; few prerecorded discs.	Heavy use of compression means sound quality can be impaired; you may have to pay for music downloads.	CD-RW discs won't play in many older CD players; mistakes are permanently stored on write-once discs.
WHY BUY IT?	If you want a cheap and easy way of making your own compilations, cassette is ideal.	Perfect if you like to edit your own recordings – you can move tracks, delete them or splice them.	More and more devices are now MP3-capable, from full-size hi-fi kit to tiny portables and even mobile phones.	CD recordings offer the best sound quality, and the format is well established worldwide.
RECOMMENDED HARDWARE	YAMAHA KX-580SE £250 ★★★★★ Quality copies and good sound from this 2002 Award winner.	PIONEER MJ-D508 £200 ★★★★☆ Just right for recording pop and dance music for portable playback.	APPLE iPOD FROM £249 ★★★★★ Latest version is slimmer and sexier than ever. Available for PC and Mac.	SONY RCD-W3 £250 ★★★★★ A real cracker – the price is right and it's a breeze to use.

Radio analogue or digital?

	Digital	Analogue
DOES IT COVER THE WHOLE COUNTRY?	No, although the number of stations is increasing all the time. See the maps opposite.	Yes, pretty much, although FM reception can be poor in some areas and is prone to interference.
WHAT'S THE QUALITY LIKE?	Good, but it depends on the bit-rate at which programmes are broadcast.	If you have a strong signal, FM stereo is very good, but MW/LW sound less good.
HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?	Portable units such as the Evoke-1 (above) are available for £99. A digital hi-fi tuner costs from £130.	You can pick up a portable radio from as little as £20. Hi-fi tuners start at around £100.
SO WHICH WAY SHOULD I GO?	Digital radio offers easy tuning, hiss-free reception and lots of new stations, so it's well worth buying if you live in the coverage area.	High-quality FM broadcasts are arguably better than digital ones, but a combi digital/analogue radio gives you the best of both worlds.

Can you get digital?

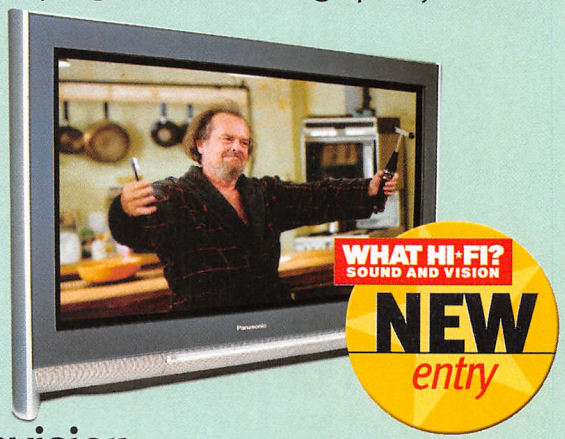


WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

www.bbc.co.uk/digitalradio; www.ukdigitalradio.com
www.drdb.org; www.digitalradionow.com

HOME CINEMA SYSTEM BUILDER

Our simple guide to hooking up all your AV kit



Television

HOT OPTION **Panasonic TX-36PD30** £1700 ★★★★★

This stylish progressive-scan capable television raises the standard of picture quality. Designed with movie watching in mind, it produces amazing images.

DVD player

HOT OPTION **Denon DVD-2900** £850 ★★★★★

A corker of a universal player. For £850 you get a fully loaded PAL prog-scan enabled machine that offers a great picture and decent music playback, too.

How to set up your TV

Position your set away from lights or move standing lamps and other light sources to avoid/minimise intrusive light reflection that can detract from the picture. Newer flatscreen sets are less prone to reflections than the older curved-screen type.

Dim the lights in your viewing room, or even better, turn them off altogether.

Reduce the brightness on your TV to roughly 35 percent.

Set contrast to about 65 percent to leave whites bright but not 'flaring', and give consistent blacks.

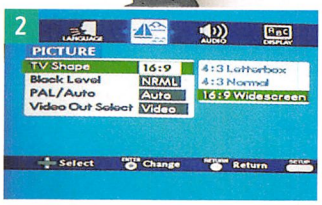
Turn sharpness controls off – they artificially 'intensify' areas of screen detail, but do so at some cost to true fine-detail resolution.

Turn off Artificial Intelligence, Digital Noise Reduction or any other digital picture-enhancing gizmos – they can cause 'smearing' or digital noise, or jerking.

Buy a decent Scart cable (see pic 1) These cost from £20-£40 and will deliver a better picture and sound than any freebie.

The ideal settings

Brightness	
Contrast	
Sharpness	OFF
AI	OFF
Scart input	RGB
Aspect ratios	16:9 or Wide



Use on-screen menus (see pic 2) to set the right aspect ratios on the TV (Wide) and DVD player (16:9). This'll access the anamorphic coding (or 'widescreen enhancement') on the disc for a correctly shaped, more detailed picture.

Play a DVD with lots of reds/oranges in it. *Total Recall*, *Dances with Wolves* and *Red Planet* work well, for example. Reduce the colour until red looks red, but fleshtones are natural not pink. If reds are overblown, you'll see flaring round the edges of things.

If you have a surround-sound set, use the built-in test tone to set all the speakers to the correct level. Avoid the temptation to set the rear speakers to too high a level.

How to set up your DVD

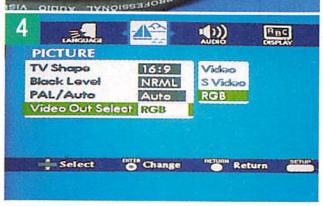
Use a Scart cable (see pic 3) to connect your DVD player to the TV. Make sure you use the Scart socket on the back of the TV which accepts an RGB signal, and connect the cable to the matching Scart on the back of the DVD player. A Scart carries both pictures and stereo sound.

Set the DVD player to RGB. The best picture comes via the RGB (red, green, blue) signal via the Scart cable that you've just connected. Use the on-screen menus to do this: press the set-up button and select RGB on the screen (see pic 4).

Set the correct screen size. You need to tell your player whether you're using a widescreen (16:9) or normal (4:3) TV. Assuming you're using a widescreen set, select the AV channel on the telly, and then press the set-up button on the DVD player's remote. Now select the widescreen mode (or 4:3 if you're watching a normal TV) from the menu screen.

Digital surround sound. In order to hear the best multichannel sound from your DVD player, you need to tell it to send a digital 'bitstream' from the digital output, using the on-screen menus . This will send Dolby Digital and DTS audio from the digital output into the AV amplifier.

Connect the digital output of the DVD player to the digital input of your home cinema amplifier using a digital

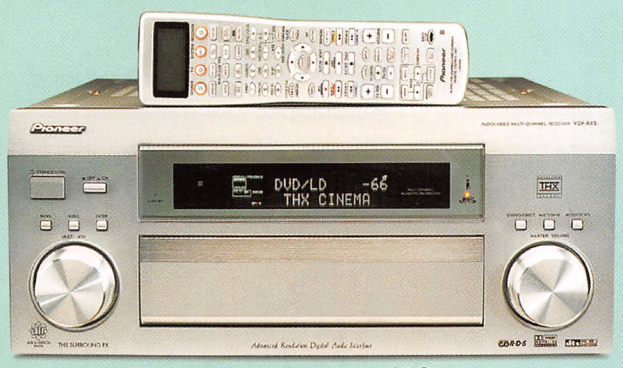


interconnect. Be sure to use a proper digital interconnect: an ordinary hi-fi phono interconnect just won't do.

Mute the TV. Remember, the Scart socket will carry audio as well as video signals into your TV, so your telly will continue to make a sound through its built-in speakers. You don't want this, so mute the television using the mute button on the television's remote control.

The ideal settings

Video Out	RGB
Digital Out	Bitstream
DTS	On
NTSC Output	NTSC



Home cinema amplifier

HOT OPTION **Pioneer VSX-A5i** £1200 ★★★★★

We thought the VSX-D2011 was spectacularly good but its replacement, the VSX-A5i, is marginally better. Awesome sound and definitive flexibility.

Speakers

HOT OPTION **Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3B** £950 ★★★★★

Winner of the surround-sound speaker crown for the second time in a row, this amazing package is excellent in stereo and fantastic fun with movies.

Front speakers

For the best home cinema results, try to keep all three speakers at the same height, and the same distance away from your listening position. If possible, choose models from the same manufacturer, as this will help to ensure tonal consistency. If the front speakers are placed near the TV, make sure they're magnetically shielded so they don't interfere with the picture.

Centre speakers

A good centre speaker produces a clearer, more involving movie-watching experience. If you can, place your centre speaker under rather than on top of your TV. If you have to put it on the TV, isolate the centre speaker by using some Blu-Tac underneath it.

Rear speakers

A home cinema speaker package works as a set of five, and each element is as significant as the other. Don't spend the bulk of your budget on the front speakers and then skimp on the rear ones.

Subwoofers

If you're using small front speakers, the loss of bass can be compensated for with a dedicated subwoofer. This handles the low frequencies and delivers the weight and depth of film soundtracks. Home cinema amps and receivers have a dedicated bass channel output (which delivers the LFE, or low-frequency effect channel – the .1 in 5.1) and this is fed directly to the subwoofer.

How to set up your amplifier

Take the digital cable from your DVD player and connect the other end into a digital input on your home cinema amplifier (see pic 5). Make sure you use the socket marked DVD, as this will be suitable for Dolby Digital and DTS signals.

Now connect the surround speakers to the amp, feeding the speaker cable from each speaker to the appropriate speaker socket on the back of the amp (see above). The left front speaker should be wired to the left front terminal, the right front speaker to the right front terminal and so on.

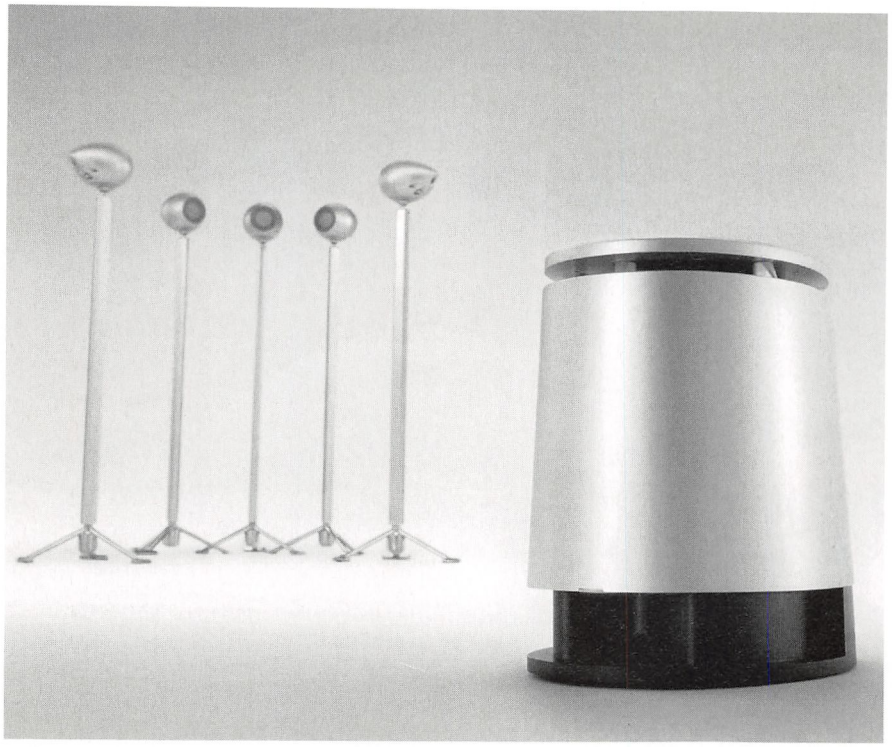
On the back of each speaker make sure that you wire the left socket to the left terminal, and the right to the right; this is called 'in-phase' and ensures the best sound reproduction.

Add a subwoofer (if required). The last speaker to wire in is the subwoofer, using another standard phono interconnect cable (see pic 6). Take the cable from the subwoofer output on your home cinema amplifier, to the single input on the back of the subwoofer.

The last thing to do once all the wiring is complete is to press the Dolby Digital/DTS button on the fascia of your home cinema amp (see pic 7). This will tell it to look for those incoming signals and automatically select the appropriate surround-sound mode when playing a DVD.

Speaker settings

Front speakers	Large
Rear speakers	Small
Centre speakers	Small
Subwoofer	Yes



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Lulét

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TIME DOMAIN AUDIO SYSTEM

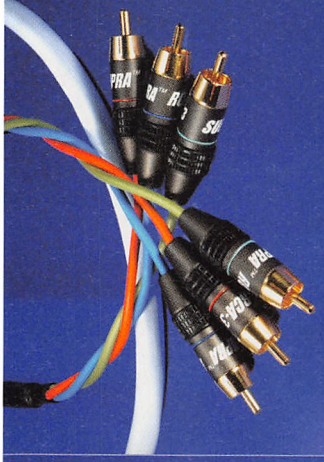
316SW subwoofer

Delivers powerful high-speed bass from an elegant casing with rigid construction and 'floating' drive unit. Time Domain principles applied to power supply unit and its associated core technologies. Compact yet provides exceptionally tight bass with high-definition reproduction. Ergonomically shaped alluminimum die-cast enclosure makes it extremely robust and resistant to unwanted vibrations.

Lulét 307 speaker

Designed with Time Domain principles to achieve accurate signal waveforms, precise sound reproduction and exceptional imaging. Removes all unwanted vibrations and resonances common to conventional speakers. Small enough to hold in the hand but with the power to deliver all the performance of a much larger high-end speaker. Stylish integrated stand and 360° horizontal manoeuvrability with ±30° for vertical adjustment. Can also be wall or ceiling mounted.

SUPRA Award Winners 2002



Supra AV-3 AV-3
3-core Audio/Video Co-ax Cable

Application examples:
Component video, RGB video,
Audio/Video.
Suitable connectors are Supra Scart, RCA-3 Phono, BNC and VGA plugs.
Component video = Y/Pb/Pr

Supra Rondo

Supra AV-3

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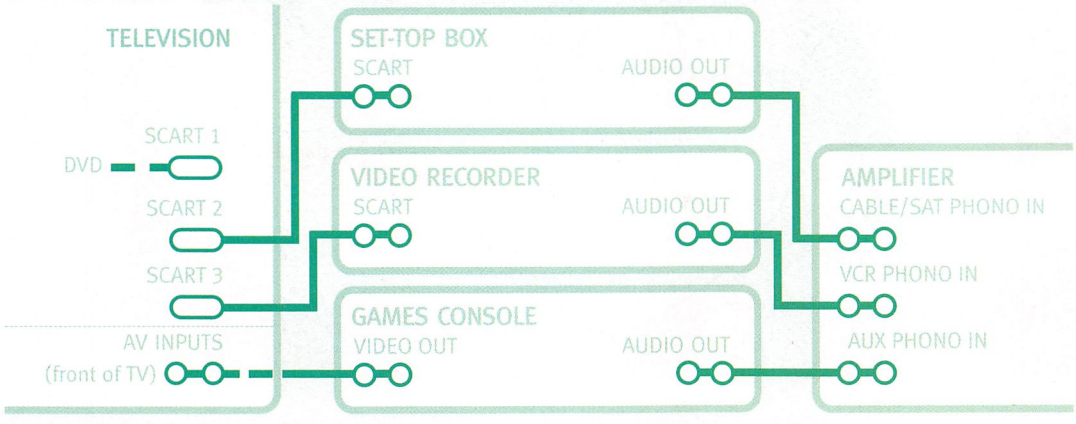
Expanding your AV system

Scart cables, which carry signals from an AV source to your TV, vary from the basic leads supplied free with a TV, VCR or DVD, to better aftermarket (branded) versions that improve sound and picture quality. Most DVD players have RGB Scart connections for the optimum picture quality, although some offer component video, which is even better, and S-Video, which is OK.



Where should I put all those speakers?

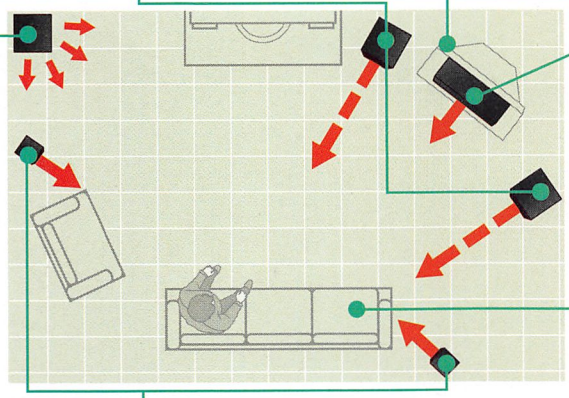
Home cinema speakers are happiest in a square room, but here's how to get the best from them whatever your room's shape

FRONT SPEAKERS Keep your front speakers equidistant from the TV and angled towards the sofa.

TELEVISION Ensure the screen doesn't face any windows or lights to minimise reflections

CENTRE SPEAKER Ideally place it under the TV, but if it must be on top, secure it with Blu-Tack to the cabinet

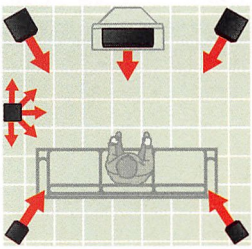
SUBWOOFER Bass is non-directional, so the subwoofer can be hidden away out of sight, either in a corner of the room or behind a chair or sofa



SEATING The seating arrangement here gives you two choices for rear speakers – in the corner behind the chairs (but that'll give a very narrow and unrealistic surround field), or as shown here, which is better but makes the left-hand sofa seat the best place for sound

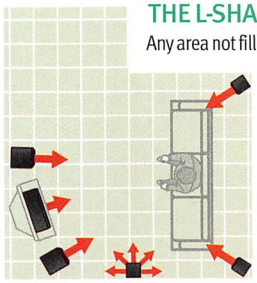
REAR SPEAKERS Tricky this, as the sofa is against a wall. Place one speaker either side of the seating

THE IDEAL SQUARE-SHAPED SCENARIO



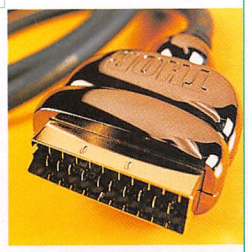
If the room is large, the set-up is quite straightforward, and you might want to add a subwoofer. Small square rooms are harder, because anything big will dominate the room and sound awful. Wall-mounted speakers will save space, and avoid using too powerful an amplifier

THE L-SHAPED ROOM



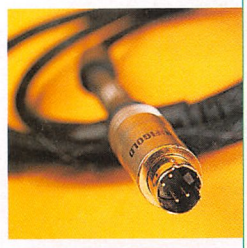
Any area not filled with kit will suck out much of the bass. Put the TV at the corner of the L, facing down the longer of the two axes. Place your main stereo speakers close to it, or alternatively opt for a subwoofer/satellite speaker system, as it can spread the bass without bad reflections

CABLE CORNER



Scart

Scart cables, which carry signals from an AV source to your TV, are the normal method of connection for DVD players, VCRs and digital set-top boxes.

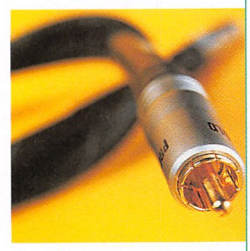


S-Video

Not all DVD players have Scart connections. S-Video, which splits the signal into chrominance (colour) and luminance (brightness), is one alternative.

Component

Some DVD players offer component video connections, which offer even better picture quality than Scart, but you'll need a TV, projector or plasma with component inputs.

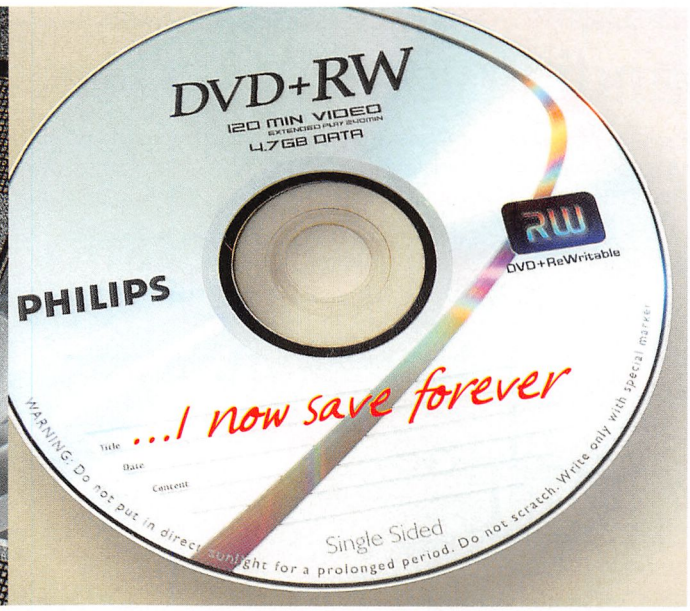


Coaxial

To feed the Dolby Digital or DTS sound signal from your DVD player into your home cinema amp, you'll need a digital cable. Most AV amps accept the coaxial type shown here.

PHILIPS

Let's make things better.



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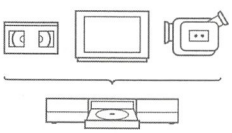
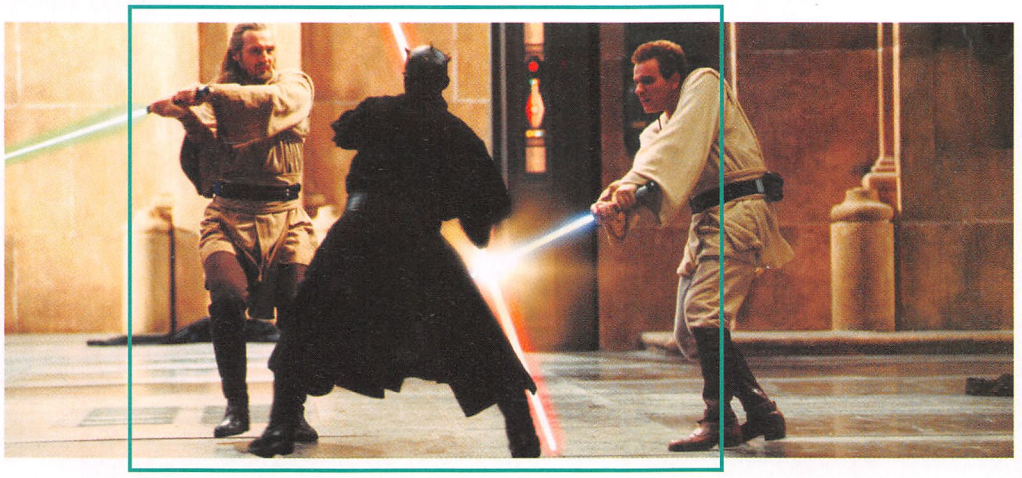




See what you're missing

So why do you need a widescreen TV? Simple. Normal TVs use the 1.33:1 (or 4:3) ratio, but Hollywood uses much wider film shapes, Letterbox (1.85:1), and Cinemascope (2.35:1). TV broadcasters often 'recut' films to make them fit a 4:3 TV, a process called 'pan and scan', and this means much of the original wide-aspect film image as shown at the cinema is lost (see above). Widescreen TVs use a compromise ratio of 1.78:1 (16:9), which gets far closer to the movie experience.

NORMAL 4:3

If you watch a 4:3 TV broadcast on a widescreen set you'll get black bars down each side. This is fine if the programme was originally shot in 4:3, but if it's a film cropped to fit the size of a normal TV you'll lose part of the image.

ANAMORPHIC WIDESCREEN

Most DVDs offer specialist widescreen coding called 'anamorphic enhancement' that squeezes the sides of the image inwards very slightly, while increasing quality. This lets Letterbox films (1.85:1) fill a 1.78:1 screen.

CINEMASCOPE

Watch a film in the widest Cinemascope (2.35:1) aspect ratio on a widescreen TV and you'll still get black bars at the top and bottom of the screen. This is quite normal: it just means you're seeing the image as the director intended.

Surround formats explained in full

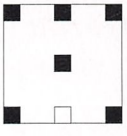
DOLBY PRO-LOGIC/ PRO-LOGIC II

The original form of surround sound, which has left and right stereo channels, a centre dialogue channel, and mono rear channels for surround effects. Pro-Logic II is Dolby's latest version of the system, and sounds far better.

DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1 & DTS

Use five discrete channels of digital sound plus a separate channel for a bass subwoofer (the .1). So you get stereo front-left and right channels, centre channel and stereo left and right rear channels (as opposed to mono).

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX & DTS ES MATRIX 6.1



A development of 5.1 surround audio that includes a 'matrixed' centre-rear audio signal to provide additional surround envelopment. Needs a decoder, with amplification, and one or two additional centre-rear speakers.

How to improve your speaker settings

Once you've connected everything, you need to adjust the speaker settings to suit the configuration of your system and the size of your room, in the following order:

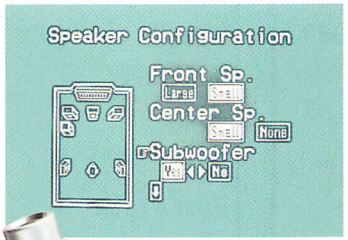
1 SPEAKER SIZE

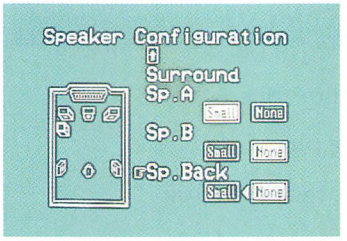
In the set-up menu on your surround amp, select the correct settings for the size of speakers you are using. Set the on-screen menu to 'small' for standmount speakers, and select Yes or No for the subwoofer option depending on whether you have one or not. For floorstanders, set the menu to 'large'.

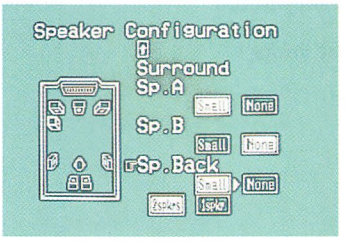
2 DELAY TIMES

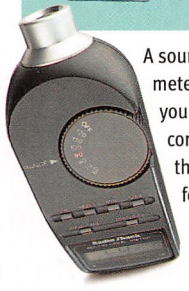
Set the delay times for each speaker to ensure the sound from all the speakers reaches you simultaneously – important for accurate effects. There are two ways of doing this: some home cinema amps and receivers allow you simply to measure the distance from your listening position (in metres) and then just key the information in via the onscreen menu. The amp will then set the delay times automatically.

If setting the delay times manually, use this formula: measure the distance in centimetres from each speaker to your listening position. Then calculate the difference (in cm) between the distances of the speakers furthest away from you, and those nearest to you. Usually, this means the difference in the distances from your seat to your front and your rear speakers. For every 30cm of this difference, add 1 millisecond of delay.









A sound-pressure-level meter (left) will help you set up speakers correctly. And follow the onscreen menus for setting speaker delays

Example: Front speakers 3.0 metres away
Rear speakers 2.1 metres away
Difference 0.9 metres = 3x30cm = 3 milliseconds of delay

3 SOUND LEVELS

Next you need to set each speaker to the correct sound level. Activate the test tone on your surround amp/receiver and using a sound pressure level meter (a very basic one is available in kit from Maplin for £5) set the main volume control to a normal listening level. Set the controls on the sound pressure meter to 75dB, 'C' weighting and 'slow' response.

Then, sitting in your listening position and with the sound meter pointing upwards (not towards the speakers), take a reading from the test tone generated from each speaker in turn, and adjust the volume level up or down until they all register 75dB on the display. Alternatively, you can set the levels by using your ears, but using a sound meter will be more accurate.

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Toshiba 32ZD26P
★★★★★ £1099
Awards 2003
This 32in Toshiba picked up a Product of the Year gong in 2002 and is still good enough to win a Best Buy. It's beautifully styled and the picture's stunning, with vibrant colours and impressive contrast levels.

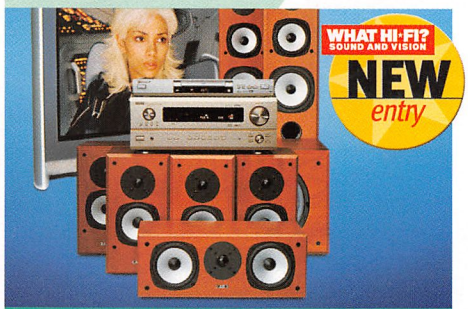
DVD PLAYER
Toshiba SD-330E
★★★★★ £100 Awards 2003
Slim, cheap and well-equipped, the SD-330E also delivers cracking pictures for a bargain price.

AV RECEIVER
Yamaha DSP-AX640E
★★★★★ £400 Awards 2003
This Best Buy-winning Yamaha offers plenty of muscle as well as a detailed, natural sound. It's strong with music, too.

SPEAKER SYSTEM
KEF KHT2005.2 (six speakers)
★★★★★ £900 Awards 2003
KEF's KHT2005 system was great, the upgraded KHT2005.2 – boasting improved drive units and a new subwoofer – is even better.

An Award-winning set-up for home cinema beginners

MIDRANGE £3650 Next step up the ladder? This system ups the home cinema ante



This package is superb for both music and movies

TELEVISION
Panasonic TX-36PD30
★★★★★ £1700
Awards 2003
Panasonic's amazing 36in widescreen really does raise television standards, which is why we gave it a TV Product of the Year Award. Virtually every element of image quality is outstanding – especially with prog-scan video.

DVD PLAYER
Pioneer DV-565A
★★★★★ £250 Awards 2003
The best all-round DVD player of the year. Produces punchy, crisp pictures and natural colours.

AV RECEIVER
Denon AVR-2803
★★★★★ £650 Awards 2003
This hugely powerful receiver uses Analog Devices' Hammerhead SHARC 32-bit processor to great effect. The result is jaw-dropping speed and precision.

SPEAKER PACKAGE
Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3B
★★★★★ £950 Awards 2003
For the second year in a row the Evo 3B package claims a Product of the Year title. A brilliant set-up.

HIGH-END £9450 If money isn't an issue, think projector, bigger speakers and suitably powerful electronics

PROJECTOR
NEC HT1000
★★★★★ £4000
Awards 2003
An exceptionally compact and capable projector. Has the ability to create magnificent images.

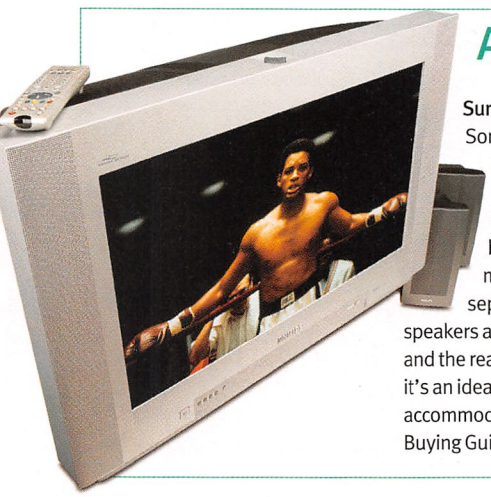
DVD PLAYER
Denon DVD-2900
★★★★★ £850 Awards 2003
A beautifully built DVD player that produces an excellent picture and highly effective multichannel surround music performance.

AV RECEIVER
Pioneer VSX-AX5i
★★★★★ £1200
Awards 2003
This well-equipped Pioneer is the best-sounding receiver in its class, offering a stunningly powerful and polished sound.

SPEAKER PACKAGE
KEF Q7 AV
★★★★★ £2700
Awards 2003
As close to the ideal compromise between superb multichannel music and movies as you can get. And it's easy on the eye, too.

A big screen needs a big sound – this set-up has both

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS



Surround-sound TV
Some televisions come with built-in Dolby Digital surround sound and extra speakers, for a simple one-box solution. They can't match the performance of a separates set-up, but the front speakers are usually built into the set and the rears tend to be quite small, so it's an ideal solution for those who can't accommodate lots of extra boxes. Our Buying Guide lists models tested.

Hi-fi kit
You can use your existing stereo hi-fi system to drive the front left and right channels, and then add a surround sound processor (such as Yamaha's £300 DSP-E800) and extra speakers for the centre and rear channels. This will preserve the sound quality of your stereo hi-fi when playing CDs, and means you don't have to throw away all your existing hi-fi equipment.

PlayStation 2
You may not know it, but a PlayStation 2 will play DVDs too, so if you already own one you can hook it into a surround system and use it for watching movies.

Glossary

Baffled by too much techno-speak? Allow us to lend a hand...

A

AAD Seen on CD cases, meaning the music was recorded and mastered in analogue form – the first two 'A's – but stored digitally.
ADD Music recorded in analogue form ('A'), mastered or remastered digitally ('D'), and then stored digitally on CD (the third 'D').
AMPLIFIER Boosts signals to drive speakers. Can be one-box (integrated) or have separate pre and power sections.
ANALOGUE LPs/cassette tapes store audio in non-digital form directly related to the signal.
ANAMORPHIC Anamorphically enhanced DVD discs have been coded to offer improved picture quality on widescreen TV sets and banish most, if not all, of the letterbox effect, too.

B

BASS Low frequencies, often hard to reproduce. A review that says bass is slow means it goes 'whoompa-whoompa' and can dominate the music. The ideal is good bass extension allied to speed and rhythm.
BASS REFLEX A speaker design using air-flow from a port in the cabinet to help bass reproduction.

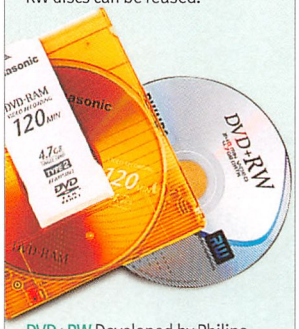
BIAMPING Each drive unit of a speaker is driven by a separate amp channel, so a pair of two-way speakers needs two stereo amps and two runs of cable to each speaker. See biwiring.
BINDING POST Speaker terminal having a threaded collar for gripping bare wires and sometimes a socket to take banana plugs, too.
BIT A single piece of digital information, basically an 'on/off' signal. Digital-to-analogue converters turn strings of bits into audio signals.
BITSTREAM A method of turning digital CD data into analogue signals. Bitstream digital-to-analogue converters process single bits of digital data much faster than multibit DACs, which work on chunks of digital data.
BIWIRING Some of the benefits of biamping but at lower cost. You need suitable speakers (with two sets of inputs and a split crossover), then send twin runs of cable from the amp (again if suitable) to each speaker.
BRIDGING Increasing power by connecting a stereo power amp for use in mono, then adding a second bridged stereo amp for the other channel. Power typically triples, but the amps must be designed to be bridged.

C

CARTRIDGE The device that actually plays the record. It converts the wobbles in the record's groove into electrical signals for your amp. See moving magnet and moving coil.
CD-R CD-Recordable. Uses a special blank disc in a recording CD player. Once recorded it can't be erased, but plays in standard CD players when 'fixed up'.
CD-RW Rewritable discs that can be erased and recorded on again and again. Work on all CD-R recorders but not all conventional CD players or in-car units.
CLASS A Amp in which positive and negative half cycles are amplified together. Runs hot, because the transistors in the power amp are on all the time, but has high-quality sound.
CLASS B Positive and negative halves of the signal dealt with by different parts of the circuit, the output devices switching continually. Amp runs cooler, though the sound is not as pure.
COLOURATION This is a shift away from the natural rendition of music. Colouration is undesirable 'boomy' bass, a 'nasal' midband or a splashy treble.
COMPRESSION Used by radio stations to reduce level differences between loud and soft parts of music. Helps in-car and transistor sound, but can be awful heard through a hi-fi tuner.
CROSSOVER Circuit inside loudspeakers which splits the incoming signal, sending the high frequencies to the tweeter and the low ones to the woofer.
CRT Cathode Ray Tube. The technology behind conventional televisions and large, high-end video projectors. Three colour tubes – one red, one green and one blue – are 'converged' to create an image on the screen.

D

DAB Digital Audio Broadcasting: digital radio on both BBC and independent stations. Offers hiss-free sound.
DAC Digital-to-analogue converter, turning on/off pulses into analogue sound. CD players have DACs built in. Separate DACs can upgrade a CD player or other digital player/recorder, or can be used with dedicated CD transports.
DATA REDUCTION Lowers the amount of data needed to store music. Sony's MiniDisc uses a system called ATRAC (Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding), removing signals its designers think you can't hear.
DDD On CD cases – music recorded and mastered digitally and stored digitally on CD.
DECIBEL (dB) Measures sound pressure. A change of 1dB is just about audible, while +10dB sounds like the level has been doubled.
DIGITAL OUTPUT Allows the digital signal to be recorded or processed by an offboard DAC. Electrical or optical (fibre-optic) outputs allow this.
DISTORTION Signals that are unwanted or signal changes added by the equipment itself.
DOLBY B, C + S Noise-reduction systems to boost quiet signals when recording and reduce them on playback, cutting hiss.
DOLBY DIGITAL A home cinema sound system from Dolby, using five discrete channels of digital sound plus a separate channel for a subwoofer. Formerly known as AC-3.
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX Development of Dolby Digital 5.1 surround audio that includes a 'matrixed' centre-rear signal for greater surround envelopment. Needs suitable decoder, with amplification, and one or two additional centre-rear speakers. See also THX Surround EX.
DOLBY HX PRO Not noise reduction, but a way to record more high-frequency information without distortion.
DOLBY SURROUND Encodes sound for rear effects channels into the stereo tracks. Needs to be replayed through a decoder to produce surround sound, though.
DOLBY PRO-LOGIC Uses an extra centre speaker at the front for dialogue, and mono rear channels for surround effects.
DTS Discrete 5.1 channel home cinema digital sound system.
DTS ES MATRIX 6.1 Variation on the Dolby Digital Surround EX theme; similar results.
DTS ES DISCRETE 6.1 The only 'true' 6.1 system, with an entirely discrete digital channel providing centre-rear channel effects.
DUAL MONO Some amps are designed to keep left and right signals separate to minimise interference between them.
DVD-AUDIO New audio format that offers multichannel surround-sound music and high-quality 24-bit/96KHz stereo.
DVD-VIDEO Video format on CD-sized disc – huge capacity for movies, with widescreen and multichannel surround sound.
DVD-R/W Recordable DVD format supported by Pioneer. DVD-R recordings can't be erased, but RW discs can be reused.



DVD+RW Developed by Philips, this alternative rewritable format can record up to four hours of DVD-Video on a 4.7GB disc.
DVD-RAM Panasonic's take on recordable DVD, which includes a 'time slip' function allowing you to watch the start of a programme while still recording the rest of it.
DYNAMIC RANGE The range, in decibels, between the largest and smallest audio signals reproduced by hi-fi.

E

ELECTROSTATIC Speakers that use the force of high voltages to push and pull a thin, light diaphragm, which produces the sound.

F

FREQUENCY High-pitched sounds have a high frequency, low-pitched ones a low frequency. Audible sounds range from 16Hz to 20kHz.

H

HDCD High Definition Compatible Digital – a coding system for compact disc that aims to get better sound. Needs a decoder to be heard.
HERTZ (Hz) Unit of frequency. One Hz means a signal has one cycle per second.
HORN LOADING Improves a drive unit's efficiency and output, using a structure within the speaker that's shaped like a horn. Works in a very similar way to the trumpet on an old-fashioned gramophone.

I

IMPEDANCE Electrical property. A low impedance draws a high current flow from the source, while a high impedance draws a little. Speakers with a low impedance are more difficult for an amplifier to drive.

L

LINE LEVEL Describes inputs to amplifiers that don't need amplifying before the amplifier can use them.
LCD Liquid Crystal Display. Found in both compact projectors and, increasingly, flatscreen televisions.

IN DEPTH | LCD SCREENS

LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY screens are the supermodels of the TV world: they're slim and attractive but underneath all that desirable bodywork there are pitfalls you should be aware of. There's no doubt that LCD technology is improving rapidly but the majority of designs are still guilty of producing a grainy, soft picture. The problem is down to the way LCD screens work. They are made using layers of polarized glass, between which liquid crystals are pushed. An electrical charge is then applied to the liquid crystals and a backlight shines through these layers to produce an image. This method of light reproduction, which is 'transmissive' rather than 'emissive', is why many LCD sets suffer from poor contrast and image persistence. However, it's not all bad: LCD sets are getting better extremely quickly and the technology offers many other benefits: they consume 30 percent less power, don't suffer from any image flicker and the picture is never distorted. Most important, they are extremely light and so very easy to mount on walls and suspend from ceilings.

M

MIDBAND The frequency range where most of the instruments and voices are heard. It must be of a high quality if singers, guitars, trumpets etc are to sound natural.
MINIDISC Sony's 64mm magneto-optical disc format. Re-recordable and easy to edit.
MONOBLOC An independent mono power amplifier – so two monoblocs are required to run in a stereo system.
MOVING COIL Cartridge design in which a stylus is connected to coils that move in relation to fixed magnets, therefore creating electrical signals. Has lower output than moving-magnet cartridge design.
MOVING MAGNET Cartridge design in which a very small magnet connected to the stylus moves relative to a fixed coil in the body, therefore generating the signal.
MP3 MPEG 1, layer 3. The compression system used for downloading music files from the internet to a PC or MP3 recording device. It reduces file sizes by a factor of 12 to enable much faster downloads.

N

NICAM CD-quality digital stereo sound transmitted alongside the picture during terrestrial TV broadcasts. Your TV needs to be Nicam to receive a stereo signal.

O

OHM Unit of resistance to current. Impedance of a speaker is measured in ohms – the lower the figure the harder it is to drive.

P

PHONO STAGE Cartridges output signals at much lower levels than CD players. Many amps have the extra amplification built-in, but increasing numbers don't, and require an add-on phono amp.
PLASMA Currently the dominant type of large, flat TV. Plasmas use neon/xenon gas sandwiched between two thin plates of glass. Electrical impulses are passed through the gas at specific points as required. This causes the gas to react, which creates a 'pixel'. There are more than a million pixels in a plasma TV.
PMPO Stands for peak music power, used on gear like mini systems and ghetto-blasters to make them look more powerful.
POWER AMPLIFIER Supplies audio signals from the source component to the loudspeakers.
POWER HANDLING The highest safe power for speakers. But it's easier to damage speakers with an amp of too low power driven hard, than with too much power.
PREAMPLIFIER The control part of an amp. Built into integrated amps, but can be separate and used with a power amp or active loudspeakers.
PRO-LOGIC see Dolby.
PROGRESSIVE SCAN Technology that creates DVD pictures in one hit. Gives clearer, flicker-free images than the conventional system, which uses interlaced, rapidly refreshed horizontal lines. Now available for both US and UK DVDs.

R

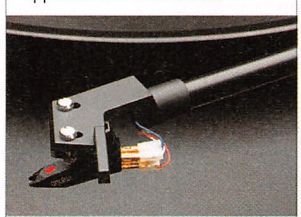
RDS Radio Data System: data piggybacked on FM radio allowing RDS tuners to display the names of stations, and perform a wide range of station-seek and switching functions.

S

SAMPLING RATE How fast a digital recorder or player samples a signal. CD and MiniDisc use a rate of 44.1KHz – ie 44,100 samples per second – while DAT recorders offer a choice of 48KHz or 44.1KHz, and Digital Audio Broadcasting works on 32KHz.
SIGNAL-TO-NOISE RATIO The difference between the level of the audio signal and the level of unwanted noise present in that signal. The larger the figure, which is measured in dB, the lower the noise in the signal.
SIX-CHANNEL INPUT Many DVD players now have built-in Dolby Digital decoders. To take advantage of these they need to be connected to a home cinema amp with a six-channel input.
SUBWOOFER A separate woofer box to produce the deep lows.
SUPER AUDIO CD (SACD) Developed by Sony and Philips, SACD uses one-bit Direct Stream Digital (DSD) technology. Most discs are dual layer, with a CD layer that will play on a normal CD player and an SACD layer for better performance when replayed on an SACD machine.

T

TAPE LOOP Two sockets on an amp letting the signal out for tape-deck recording; another pair to let the signal back in for replay.
THX Developed by LucasFilm: a set of standards for Dolby Pro-Logic gear that should ensure a certain quality of home cinema sound. Needs kit made to exacting specifications.
THX SURROUND EX Decoding system for Dolby Digital Surround EX software. Mode can also be applied to DTS-ES software.



TONEARM The device on a turntable that holds the cartridge in place.

TOROIDAL TRANSFORMER Transformers bring mains voltages down to the levels required. Toroidal transformers (doughnut-shaped) get better stability and less flux leakage (magnetic radiation that can interfere with other circuits).
TRANSIENTS Short and sudden events in music such as a cymbal crash or the crack of a stick on a snare drum. Transients are difficult to reproduce.
TREBLE High frequencies. When we say treble is splashy, it means that cymbals, for example, sound like they're going 'tizzshsh', rather than having a sting and a crispness to them.
TRIAMPING/TRIWIRING Like biamping and biwiring, but for three-way speakers. Needs three runs of cable in the case of triwiring and three stereo amps if you want to triamp the speakers.
TWEETER The small speaker driver that handles treble frequencies.

V

VALVE Amplifying device: electrodes in a glass vacuum enclosure. Produces a warm, seductive sound.

W

WATT Unit of power. More watts mean more power, but how loud a system sounds also depends on speaker sensitivity and room size. See PMPO.
WAVELENGTH The length of a soundwave. For example, sound at 50Hz in air has a wavelength of around 6.9 metres.
WIDESCREEN More and more TV programmes, and nearly all DVD discs, are shown in widescreen format. This can vary from 14:9 (a compromise ratio used by TV broadcasters) to 16:9, which is the ratio used on widescreen TV sets and most DVDs. Many films shown at the cinema are in 21:9, so you'll still get black bars on a widescreen television. Ordinary 'square' TVs are 4:3.
WOOFER The large drive unit in a speaker that produces the bass frequencies.

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SOUND AND VISION

Buying guide

Every five-star winner 141
All the products that have been awarded the coveted five-star rating

Our current Best Buys 146
Four pages, three price bands, loads of recommendations

Players & recorders 151
CD players 151 | Transports & DACs 153 | Multiplayers 153 | SACD players 153 | Personal digital recorders 153 | Digital recorders 155 | Cassette recorders 155 | Turntables 155 | Tuners 157

Amplifiers 159
Stereo amps 159 | Preamps 161 | Power amps 164 | Phono amps 166

Speakers 166
Stereo pairs 166

Systems 199
Micro systems 199 | Mini systems 199 | Style systems 199

Home cinema 207
DVD players/recorders 207 | Surround amps & receivers 217 | Processors 218 | Subwoofers 218 | Surround speaker packages 221 | Home cinema in a box 225 | Televisions 229 | Plasmas and LCDs 232 | Projectors 232

Accessories 233
Speaker cables 233 | Interconnects 235 | Digital interconnects 242 | Video cables 243 | Speaker stands 244 | Equipment racks 244 | Headphones 245

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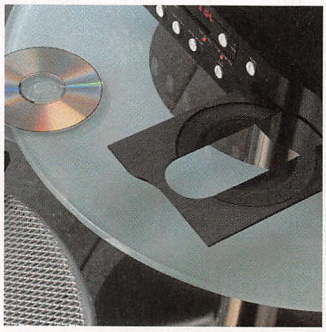
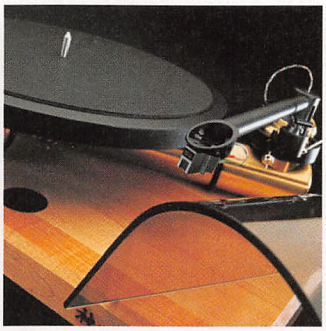




PLAYERS & RECORDERS

CD players

Sony CDP-XE570	130	Feb 02
Marantz CD5400	150	Aug 03
✪ NAD C521BEE	200	Oct 03
NAD C541i	330	Oct 03
Rotel RCD-02	379	Aug 03
✪ Arcam DiVA CD73T	400	Oct 03
Roksan Kandy MkIII	550	Sep 03
Arcam DiVA CD82T	600	Sep 03
✪ Cyrus CD6	600	Sep 03

£601 plus

Monrio Asty Player	750	Apr 00
Marantz CD-17 MkII 'M'	800	Mar 03
Linn Genki	995	Mar 03
✪ Cyrus CD8	1000	Sep 03
Quad 99CD-P	1000	Mar 03
Meridian 507	1195	Mar 03
✪ Copland CDA822	1598	Mar 03
Roksan Attessa DP3.P	1600	Apr 99
Talk Electronics Thunder 3.1	1700	Sep 02
Meridian 588	2100	Jul 01
Sugden Masterclass	2700	Jun 02

CD transports & DACs

Audio Note DAC One 1x	749	Sep 00
TAG McLaren CDT20R-T2L	1100	Nov 00
Mark Levinson No 37	4495	Jun 96

SACD players

Philips DVD963SA	400	Jul 03
Sony SCD-XA333ES	1200	Jul 03

Personal digital recorders

✪ Apple iPod	300	Aug 03
Creative Jukebox 3	299	Aug 03
Sharp IM-MT899H	210	Dec 02
Sony MZ-N10	280	Aug 03

Digital recorders

✪ Sony RCD-W3	250	Feb 03
Sony MDS-JA333ES	600	Jul 01
✪ Yamaha CDR-HD1300E	600	Feb 03

Cassette recorders

Yamaha KX-393	160	Sep 98
TEAC V-1050	180	Sep 98
Denon DRW-585	200	Aug 01
Yamaha KX-493	200	Apr 99
Yamaha KX-580SE	250	Aug 01
TEAC V-6030S	550	Jun 97
Sony TCK-A6ES	650	Jun 96

Turntables

Bush MTT1	50	Feb 96
Pro-ject Debut II/Orto OMB5E	120	Aug 02
Pro-ject Debut Phono SB	170	Oct 02
Rega P2	198	Jun 01
✪ Pro-ject 1 Xpression	210	Sep 03
Rega P3	298	Aug 00
Pro-ject 2/Ortofon 510 II	300	Aug 00
Nottingham Analogue Interspace	587	Jun 96
VPI HW-19 Junior	650	Mar 98
Origin Live Ultra Kit	722	Nov 01
✪ Audio Note TT1/Arm One/IQ1	725	Nov 01
✪ Michell Gyrodec SE	870	May 03
Pro-ject RPM9	1000	Aug 02
Roksan Xerxes 10	1100	Jun 01
Origin Live Aurora	1196	Oct 03
Michell Orbe SE	1916	Jun 01
Wilson Benesch The Full Circle	1995	Jun 01
Linn Sondek LP12/Lingo	2100	Awd 94
Reson Rota 1/Reson Reta/Etile	3100	May 00
Avid Acutus	5000	Oct 99
Nottingham Analog. Anna Log	6451	Aug 97
Clearaudio Master Ref/TQ-I/V	14150	Aug 01

Tuners

✪ Pure Digital Evoke-1 (portable)	100	Feb 03
Cambridge Audio DAB300	120	May 03
✪ Denon TU-260L MK II	130	Apr 00
✪ Cambridge Audio DAB500	150	Oct 03
Sony ST-SB920	180	Jan 99
Pure Digital DRX-701ES	249	Oct 02
Pure Digital DRX-702ES	330	Jul 03
Linn Pekin	600	Oct 01
Sony ST-D777ES	600	Feb 01
Naim NAT05	765	Oct 01
Meridian 504	795	Nov 94

POWER

Integrated amps/receivers

Up to £500

Cambridge Audio A5	120	Jul 01
Denon DRA-455	200	Aug 01
NAD C320BEE	220	Dec 02
✪ Rotel RA-01	250	Jul 03
Sony TA-FB940R	300	Dec 00
✪ Marantz PM7200	330	Jul 03
Rotel RA-02	349	Sep 02

£501 plus

TAG McLaren Audio 60i	549	Feb 02
✪ Roksan Kandy MkIII	550	May 03
Audio Analogue Puccini Remote	595	May 00
Cyrus 6	600	May 03
Unison Research Unico	775	Jun 03
Arcam DiVA A85	800	Apr 03
✪ Cyrus 8	800	Apr 03
Eclipse TD A502	875	May 02
Roksan Caspian MkII	895	Apr 03
Electrocompaniet EC1-3	1099	Jan 00
✪ AVI Laboratory Series	1399	May 03
Primare A30.1	1500	Jul 02
Moon I-3	1550	Jun 03
Ear/Yoshino V20	2799	Nov 98
Sugden Masterclass	3150	Jun 02
Lavardin IT	3200	Jul 00
Cary Audio Design cad-300sei	3995	Jan 01
McIntosh MA6900	4990	Mar 03
Mark Levinson No 383	5995	Jan 01
Red Rose Model 5 (Valve)	7999	Jun 03
Tube Technology Synergy PPS	9000	Jan 99

Preamps

Up to £1000

Creek OBH-12	220	Apr 98
NAD C160	430	Sep 00
Audio Note M-One R	599	Oct 00
Myryad MP 100	600	Nov 02
Sugden Headmaster	659	Jun 01
Cyrus Pre aCA 7.5	700	Nov 02
Quad 99	750	Nov 02
Cyrus Pre X	1000	Aug 03

£1001 plus

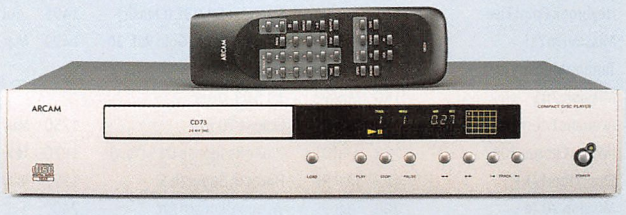
✪ Primare Pre30	1200	Jan 03
Roksan ROK L2.5	1250	Nov 95
Naim NAC 202	1375	Jul 03
Ear/Yoshino 864	1529	Awd 01
TAG McLaren DPA32R-dab	1695	Nov 00
DNM Reson 3C Primus	2100	May 01
Chord Electronics CPA 2200	3035	Jul 99
GRAAF GM 13.5B II	3995	Jan 00
Mark Levinson No380S	6995	Jan 00
Chord Elect. CPA 4000 Enhan	7395	May 01

Hot newcomer

Arcam CD73T £400

A brilliant performer. This Arcam keeps the spectacular dynamism of its predecessor – the similar looking CD72T – but offers a good deal more refinement. Excellent timing, brilliant detail resolution and a simple upgrade path provide the icing on the cake.

Reviewed October 2003 For full review call Back Issues: 01235 534323



RATINGS

- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Five-star winners

SPEAKERS

Power amplifiers

Up to £1000

NAD C270	450	Nov 01
Quad 99 Stereo	550	Nov 02
Cyrus SmartPower	600	Nov 02
Roksan Caspian	645	Dec 98
Rotel RMB1075 (THX)	845	Feb 03
Quad 909	900	Nov 02
Myryad MA240	1000	Nov 02

£1000 plus

Cyrus Mono X	1200	Aug 03
✪ Primare A30.2	1200	Jan 03
Myryad MA360	1300	Oct 00
Naim NAP 200	1345	Jul 03
Roksan ROK S1.5	1500	Nov 95
Meridian 557	1625	Mar 99
DNM PA3	1900	May 01
Chord Electronics SPM 600	2260	Jul 99
Arcam FMJ P7	2500	May 03
GRAAF GM 20	3300	Jan 00
Ear/Yoshino 861	3799	Awd 01
TAG McLaren 100x5R:10	4720	May 03
Chord Electronics SPM 1200E	5600	May 01
Cary Audio Design CAD-805C	8995	Sep 99
Krell FPB-400CX	11997	Jan 03

Phono & headphone amps

Pro-ject Phono Box	40	Apr 01
Graham Slee Gram Amp 1	85	Apr 01
Pro-ject Phono Box SE	100	Aug 02
Graham Slee Gram Amp 2	119	Jun 02
Creek OBH-21SE	250	May 03
✪ Trichord Dino	299	Jun 01
EarMax Pro Headphone Amp	425	Jun 99
Sonneteer Sedley	499	Jun 99

Speakers

Up to £500

Eltax Monitor III	129	Jun 00
Heybrook Point Five	130	Jan 01
Mission m71i	130	Oct 02
Tannoy Mercury mX2-M	150	Sep 03
Mission 701	160	May 98
Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo One	180	Sep 03
JM Lab Chorus 705	189	Jul 01
Eltax Liberty 5+	199	Mar 99
Mission 702e	200	Apr 99
Mission 771e	200	Aug 00
✪ Monitor Audio Bronze B2	200	Sep 03
Wharfedale Diamond 8.3	200	Dec 01
B&W DM601 S3	250	Mar 02
KEF Q1	250	Aug 02
Linn Classik Unik	250	Jan 03
Wharfedale Pacific Pi-10	250	Mar 02
Acoustic Energy Aego 2 (sub/sat)	300	Apr 01
B&W DM602 S3	300	Dec 02
Mission 780	300	Dec 02
Mission m74i	300	Feb 03
Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3	350	Feb 03
Mission 780SE	350	Feb 03
✪ Quad 11L	379	Jul 03
Mission fs2-A	390	Sep 00
Dynaudio Audience 42	400	Dec 02
ATC SCM7	480	Apr 03
AVI Neutron III	499	Sep 01
Mission 774	500	Sep 98

£501-£1500

Tannoy Revolution R3	550	Feb 00
Dynaudio Audience 52 (vinyl)	557	Apr 03
Faraday Siren	595	Nov 90
Arcaydis AK3	599	Jul 03
Sonus Faber Concertino	599	Aug 96
Tannoy ST50 (Super Tweeter)	600	Dec 02
✪ Dynaudio Audience 52 (veneer)	624	Apr 03
Tannoy Sensys DC2	649	Aug 03
Wharfedale Evolution-30	650	Mar 03
Mission 782	700	Oct 02
Triangle Zerius 202	705	Mar 02
Monitor Audio Gold Ref. 10	799	Aug 01
AVI Pro-Nine-Plus	800	Jun 03
Mission 782SE	900	Jun 03
✪ ATC SCM12	1000	Jun 03
JBL Ti2K	1000	Mar 00
Spendor SR5	1000	Jun 03
Jamo D 830 (was Concert 8)	1249	Sep 99
ATC SCM10-2 Active	1269	Awd 01
Spendor S6	1300	Jul 02
PMC FB1	1410	Awd 00
Spendor SP2/3E (Classic)	1495	Jul 00
Monitor Audio Gold Ref. 20	1499	Mar 01

£1501 plus

Eclipse TD 512	1750	May 02
ProAc Response D15 (Yew)	1970	Nov 02
Harbeth Super HL5	1999	May 03
Wilson Benesch Arc	2400	Feb 02
✪ PMC OB1	2450	Oct 03
B&W Signature 805	2500	Feb 03
KEF Reference Model 203	3000	Sep 02
BC Acoustique Nil	3140	Aug 99
ProAc Future 0.5	3500	Jun 02
Quad ESL-988	3500	Dec 00
PMC IB1	3900	Apr 01
Ruark Acoustics Solstice	4500	Awd 98
Wilson Benesch Discovery	5495	Apr 01
Revel Ultima Gem	5895	Mar 98
Ruark Acoustics Excalibur	8000	Jan 99
B&W Nautilus 801	8500	Jan 99
TAG McLaren F1 AvantGarde	19995	Oct 00
Living Voice Air Scout	24500	Sep 97

Micro systems

Sharp XL-HP700H	180	Oct 03
✪ Denon D-M31	300	Jun 03
Denon D-M50	349	Jan 01
Philips MC-90	400	Nov 02

Hot newcomer

PMC OB1 £2450

These fantastic floorstanders have a rich, effortless bass that combines with a sweet midrange and treble to produce a truly thrilling sound.

Reviewed October 2003

For full review call Back Issues: 01235 534323

HOME CINEMA

Style systems

✪ Denon D-F101	450	Feb 03
TEAC Reference 300	600	Mar 98
Denon 201SA	800	Aug 02
TEAC Reference 500	800	Sep 99
Cyrus Quattro FM	900	Jan 01
Linn Classik Music System	1030	Apr 01
✪ Sugden Master System	2647	May 02
TAG McLaren Aphrodite/Callio	5290	Sep 00

DVD players/recorders

Up to £400

Reoc A3	90	Jan 02
✪ Toshiba SD-330E	100	Jul 03
Truvox DVD-600	100	Mar 02
Wharfedale M3	100	Feb 03
Pioneer DV-464-S	120	Oct 03
Lecson DVD-1000	179	Jun 02
Wharfedale DVD-750	180	Oct 00
✪ Pioneer DV-565A	250	Sep 03
Harman-Kardon DVD25	350	May 03
✪ Panasonic DMR-E50	400	Oct 03
Philips DVD963SA	400	May 03
Pioneer DV-656A	400	Jul 03

£401 plus

✪ Toshiba RD-XS30	699	Awd 03
Denon DVD-2800Mk2	750	Apr 03
Pioneer DV-757Ai	800	Sep 03
✪ Denon DVD-2900	850	Sep 03
Panasonic DMR-HS2	850	Jan 03
Philips DVDR1000 MkII	1000	Jan 03
Pioneer DV-939A	1200	May 01
Meridian 596	2485	Sep 01
Denon DVD-A1	2500	Aug 02
TAG McLaren Audio DVD32FLR	2995	Sep 02
✪ TEAC DV-50	4500	Oct 03
TAG McLaren Audio DVD32R	4595	Feb 01
Meridian Reference 800	10805	Feb 01

Surround amps & receivers

Sherwood RVD-6095RDS	249	Awd 99
Pioneer VSX-C301-S	250	Oct 03
Pioneer VSX-D812	330	Oct 03
Pioneer VSX-C501	400	Awd 03
Yamaha RX-V440RDS	300	Oct 03
✪ Yamaha DSP-AX640SE	400	Sep 03
Yamaha RX-V640RDS	470	Aug 03

RATINGS

✪ Award winner

★★★★★ Supertest winner

★★★★★ Excellent

★★★★☆ Very good

★★★☆☆ Average

★★☆☆☆ Below par

★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TELEVISIONS

Hot newcomer

Philips 28W9618 £1200

This 28in surround-sound widescreen set comes with integrated front left, right and centre speakers, plus two wireless rears. The sound's great but the picture's breathtaking: there's fluid movement across the screen and superb contrast leads to brilliant three-dimensionality.

Reviewed October 2003
For full review call Back Issues: 01235 534323

Sony STR-DB1080	500	Mar 03
✪ Denon AVR-2803	650	Awd 03
Pioneer VSX-AX3	800	Oct 03

£900 plus

Sony STR-VA555ES	1000	Jun 02
✪ Pioneer VSX-AX5i	1200	Sep 03
Onkyo TX-NR900	1499	Aug 03
Rotel RSX-1065	1795	Mar 02
Denon AVC-A11SR	1800	Mar 02
✪ Harman-Kardon AVR 8500	1800	Feb 03
Marantz PS-17	2000	May 03
✪ Pioneer VSA-AX10	2700	Sep 02

Processors

Yamaha DSP-E800	350	Sep 00
Rotel RSP-1066	995	May 03
TAG McLaren Audio AV30R	1799	May 03
Naim AV2	2255	Dec 02
TAG McLaren AV32R bp192	2549	Sep 99
Arcam FMJ AV8	3000	May 03
Lexicon MC-12 (unbalanced)	8100	Apr 02

Subwoofers

MJ Acoustics Pro 50 (Paint)	299	Nov 01
MJ Acoustics Pro-50 (Wood)	349	Dec 01
✪ MJ Acoustics Ref 100 (Paint)	350	Oct 03
REL Acoustics Quake (Black)	350	Dec 02
REL Acoustics Quake (Cherry)	425	Oct 02
Mission m5as	500	Oct 02
✪ REL Acoustics Q-150E MkII	500	Sep 03
B&W ASW675	650	Oct 02
MJ Acoustics Pro 100 (Wood)	699	Apr 02
REL Acoustics Strata III	700	Jul 99
REL Acoustics Q201E	725	Feb 01
MJ Acoustics Reference I (Wood)	799	Jun 03
Paradigm Servo 15	800	Oct 98
M&K VX-100	845	Jul 99
REL Acoustics Storm III	900	Apr 03
M&K V1250THX	995	Jun 99
REL Acoustics Q400E	1000	Sep 00
✪ B&W ASW750	1200	Oct 03
REL Acoustics Stadium III	1500	Oct 02
M&K MX-350 MkII (THX)	2095	Apr 03

Surround speaker packages

Richard Allan AV Micra	303	Awd 94
Richard Allan AV1 System	384	Jun 94
Elac Cinema One 5.1	399	Dec 02
Mission Cinema m72	400	Aug 01
Wharfedale Diamond Cinema	400	Sep 01
Canton Movie CD 1	480	Awd 03
✪ Mission Cinema m70	480	Dec 02
Mission fs2-AV	600	May 01
Infinity Oreus sub/sat package	700	Mar 03
✪ KEF KHT 2005.2	800	Sep 03
Mission Cinema 7	800	Oct 99
B&W DM300 series	900	Feb 03
✪ Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3B	950	Jul 02
Monitor Audio Bronze B4	950	Sep 03
B&W DM600 series	1000	Jul 02
Dynaudio Aud 62/42C/42	1347	Jul 02
Mission Cinema 8	1400	Jun 01
Mordaunt-Short 500 THX	1600	Sep 02
✪ M&K K-5	1715	Oct 03
✪ KEF Q7 AV	2300	Aug 03
KEF TDM 23F/23C/34DS/45B	2700	Feb 99
M&K 750THX	2715	Jun 99
Ruark Contemporary Prologue	2920	Oct 02
✪ M&K 850/CS35/V-850	3900	Jul 03

Home cinema in a box

Creative Labs Inspire Dig 5700	250	Jun 02
Acoustic Energy Aego P5	600	Apr 03
Sony DAV-S550	600	Apr 03
✪ Pioneer DV565A/C501-S	650	Awd 03
Klegg M8 501	700	Jan 03
TEAC Reference 350 A/V	700	Jun 02
TEAC DV-H550/AG-H550	850	Jan 02
✪ TEAC Legacy 700/LS-L800	1100	Jan 03
Denon AV-F100 (NXT spkrs)	1200	Mar 01

Televisions

✪ Panasonic TX-28PS1	500	Jul 03
Philips 24PW6006	500	Jul 02
JVC AV-28T25S	550	Jul 03
✪ Toshiba 32ZD26P	1099	Jun 03
✪ Philips 28PW9618	1200	Oct 03
Toshiba 36ZD26P	1300	Dec 02
✪ Panasonic TX-15LT2	1499	Feb 03
✪ Panasonic TX-36PD30	1700	Sep 03
Toshiba 36ZP38P	1800	Sep 03
Yamaha LPX-500	3300	Jan 03
✪ Sony KE-32TS2	3400	Aug 03
Toshiba 35WP26P	4300	Aug 03
✪ JVC PD-42D30ES	5500	Oct 03
Pioneer PDP433HDE	5995	Jun 02
Pioneer PDP-503HDE	8000	Sep 02

Projectors

DreamVision CinexOne	3100	Jul 02
Epson EMP-TW100	3617	Sep 02
Hitachi PJ-TX10	1200	Oct 03
✪ NEC HT1000	4700	Sep 03
✪ Optoma ThemeScene H56	3495	Oct 03
Sanyo PLV-Z1	1500	Feb 03
Sharp XV-Z91E	2400	Oct 03
SIM2 HT300 Plus	8995	Jan 03
✪ Yamaha DPX-1000	8000	Oct 03

Speaker cables

Up to £7/m

Cable Talk Talk 3.1	2.5	Feb 99
QED Original	2.75	Apr 96
Chord Company Carnival	2.99	Feb 99
Ixos XHS706-S (6003 Gamma)	3.49	Feb 99
Ecosse Reference CS-2.3	3.85	Oct 00
Supra Rondo 4x2.5	4.99	Sep 02
Merlin C6	5.5	Oct 03
✪ QED Silver Anniversary	5.5	May 98
QED Original Mk II Bi-Wire	5.5	Oct 00
Black Rhodium AST 200	6	May 98
DNM Reson MkII	6.95	May 00

£7.01/m plus

Nordost Cinemaflex 14/4	9.95	Oct 01
Tara Labs Prism Nexa	9.95	Aug 99
QED Profile 4x4	10	Apr 97
QED X-Tube XT300	10	Sep 02
QED Silver Anniversary Biwire	10	Jul 01
van den Hul CS-122	10	Oct 98
Nordost Flatline Gold MkII	10.5	May 98
QED X-Tube XT350	15	Oct 02
Ecosse ES2.3/CS2.15 biwire	17	Jul 01
Black Rhodium S300	18	Oct 97
Chord Company Rumour 4 Core	19.9	Jul 01
Atlas Ascent	20	Oct 03

RATINGS
✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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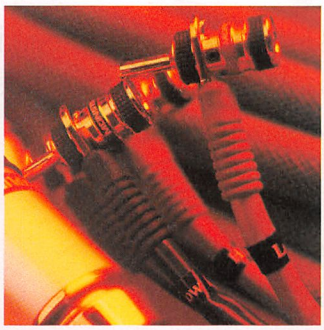
Five-star winners



CABLES & ACCESSORIES

Speaker cables (continued)

✪ QED X-Tube XT400	20	Apr 03
Ecosse Reference MS-2.3	23	Oct 99
QED Genesis	30	Aug 99
Nordost Solar Wind	31	Jan 99
Audioquest Slate (3m pair)	220	Apr 02
Kimber KS-3035 (3m termin)	3735	Apr 99

Audio interconnects

Ixos XHA203 (104 Custom)	19.99	Feb 93
QED Qunex One	20	Feb 99
AR Accessories Pro Series HT152	25	Oct 02
Precious Metals CopTech Alpha	25	Sep 00
Cambridge Audio Pacific	30	Mar 96
Ecosse The Composer	30	Aug 01
QED Qunex Two	30	Mar 98
van den Hul The Bay C5	39	Apr 02
✪ Atlas Equator	39.99	Aug 02
DNM Reson	40	Oct 98
Straightwire Level 2 Chorus	40	Oct 97
LAT International IC-50-D	42	Mar 96
Cable Talk Monitor 3	49.95	Oct 99
Ecosse Conductor (was Ref CA-1)	59	Sep 00
van den Hul The Source	59	May 00
Nordost Black Knight	68	Apr 97
QED Qunex Silver Spiral	75	Oct 98
Kimber PBJ (pair)	76	Oct 01
van den Hul D102 III HB	79	May 98
DNM Reson Bullet Plug	80	Oct 02
✪ Merlin Chopin	85	Oct 03
Roksan HDC-02A	85	Sep 00
Atlas Explorer	89.99	Jul 02
Cyrus Interconnect	90	Apr 03
Nordost Solar Wind	95	Mar 98
Cable Talk Broadcast 2	99.95	Jan 97
Precious Metals Sl Signal 52	100	Oct 97
Atlas Voyager	110	Apr 03
Ecosse Maestro (was Ref MA2)	159	Oct 99
Chord Company Chorus	200	May 00
van den Hul The First Ultimate	245	Sep 00

Digital interconnects

Ecosse Reference Producer	19.99	Sep 00
✪ Profigold PGD481	19.99	Oct 01
Black Rhodium Rhythm	25	Sep 02
Chord Company Optichord	40	Mar 99
Atlas Compass	49.99	Aug 02
van den Hul Optocoupler	50	Sep 00
✪ Supra X-ZAC	59.99	Sep 02

Video cables

Hama 43535	6.99	Mar 99
Philex 26481H	15	Oct 03
Profigold PGV 6602 S-Video	15	Aug 00
Lektropacks HCSL14	17.6	Mar 99
Philex Thor Scart	30	Apr 02
Profigold PGV632	30	May 02
✪ Thor RGB	35.5	Oct 03
Ixos XHT601-150	39.99	Oct 02
✪ Ixos XHT611	40	Oct 03
Straightwire Scart	40	Aug 00
Ixos XHT601-300 (130AV)	49.99	Mar 99
QED Squart 4110 (RGB)	50	Sep 01
True Colours Ind Taipan S-Vid	54.99	Aug 00
Supra AV3 Component	65	Oct 02
Precious Metals SlTech S-VHS	70	Jan 02
Audioquest Scart Type T4	75	Sep 01
Supra AV6 (RGB)	79.99	Apr 02
Precious Metals RGB/Compon	90	May 02
Chord Company Scart	99	Jan 02
Kimber Scart	102	Oct 03
Chord Company Scart (RGB)	125	Apr 02
Nordost Optix Component Video	210	Apr 02

Hot newcomer

Merlin Chopin £85

A great addition to any midpriced system: it allows a punchy, clean presentation with impressive detail in the higher frequencies. And like others in the Merlin range, this interconnect has a radio frequency interference filter.

Reviewed October 2003
For full review call Back Issues: 01235 534323

Hot newcomer

Yamaha DPX-100 £8000

Despite its behemoth size, this projector is surprisingly easy to install due to its motorised lens modes. And once set up, you won't be able to stop using it: it gives a rich, full image that's full of colour and deep blacks.

Reviewed October 2003 For full review call Back Issues: 01235 534323

Speaker stands

Atacama Nexus 6	60	Dec 00
Apollo Olympus	80	Dec 96
Kudos S50	115	Jan 02
Partington Dreadnought	120	Aug 03
✪ Partington Super Dreadnought	140	Aug 03
Kudos S100	379	Jan 02

Equipment racks

✪ Atacama Equinox	280	Oct 01
Stands Unique Sound Tower	319	Jun 95
Henley WR-5	350	Sep 03
Atacama Equinox AV	400	Sep 02
Clearlight Audio Aspekt	550	Apr 02
Townshend Seismic Sink Stand	810	May 02
Audiophilebase Base	912	Jul 98
Audiophilebase StarBase	915	Dec 02

Hot newcomer

Philex 26481H

£15/1.5m

A solidly constructed and highly effective Scart cable, enabling an impressive performance for the price. A great first upgrade.

Reviewed October 2003
For full review call Back Issues: 01235 534323

Headphones

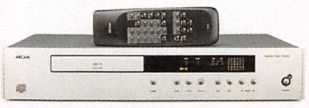
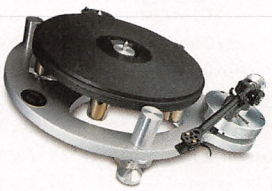
Sennheiser MX500 (in-ear)	20	Jan 01
✪ Sennheiser PX100	30	Apr 03
Beyer DT 231 Galactic	45	Aug 01
AKG K105 UHF	60	Nov 00
Grado SR60	90	Jan 03
Grado SR80	110	Feb 98
Sennheiser HD-600	250	Oct 97
Grado RS1	750	Apr 98

RATINGS

- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Hi-fi best buys

Here's the kit that's currently top of our favourites list in three price categories. Every month we'll update the list as new rivals enter the market and take on the top contenders in our group tests

	BUDGET	MIDRANGE	HIGH-END
CD players Full product listings p151	**NAD C521BEE** £200 Even better value than the C521i: zinging delivery, firm bass, top build.	 **Arcam CD73T** £400 The revised CD72T has jaw-dropping dynamism, refinement and timing.	**Copland CDA822** £1598 It may look mundane, but the Copland sounds exquisite – a brilliant player.
Recorders Full product listings p153	**Yamaha KX-580SE** £250 Best Buy cassette deck in the Awards 2002. Great for replay and recording.	**Sony RCD-W3** £250 Great performance from a machine that's easy to use. A real bargain.	**Yamaha CDR-HD1300E** £600 Combines CD and hard-disk playback/ recording – easy to use and sounds great.
Turntables Full product listings p155	**Pro-ject 1 Xpression** £210 Exceptional all-round performance – remarkable sound for the price.	**Audio Note TT1** £725 Affordable, well-built and sounds excellent. Product of the Year 2003.	 **Michell Gyrodec SE** £1058 The Gyrodec has been around for ages, but few rivals get near its style or sound.
Tuners Full product listings p157	**Denon TU-260LMkII** £130 An excellent-value analogue tuner, and a Best Buy in the Awards 2003.	**Pure DRX-702ES** £330 A top-quality digital and FM/AM radio at a sensible price. A great choice.	**TAG McLaren T32R** £2290 State-of-the-art digital radio offering DAB, FM, MW and LW tuners.
Integrated amps/receivers Full product listings p159	**Rotel RA-01** £250 Based on the Award-winning RA-02, but £100 less, this amp is a cracker.	**Roksan Kandy MkIII** £550 Best Buy Award. The latest update of the sweet-sounding Kandy is a treat.	**AVI Laboratory Series** £1500 This is one of the best amps below £2000. Digs deeper than competitors.
Preamps Full product listings p161	**Creek OBH-12** £199 A purist preamp, designed for use in simple set-ups, but it works a treat.	**Cyrus Pre X** £1000 Flexible and well-equipped with great detail resolution and speed.	**Krell KRC-3** £3490 The preamp we use in our hi-fi reference system with the FPB400CX power amp.

RATINGS
- Award winner
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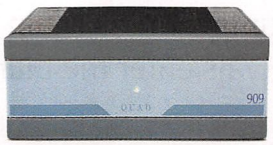
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

	BUDGET	MIDRANGE	HIGH-END
Power amplifiers Full product listings p164	**Cyrus SmartPower** £550 Best Buy in 2001. The perfect partner for Cyrus's Pre aCA7.5 preamp.	 **Quad 909** £900 A detailed, powerful amplifier with an exceptional depth of talent.	**Krell FPB400CX** £11,997 Replacement for the FPB300C, and sounds even better than the original.
Speakers Full product listings p166	**Monitor Audio Bronze B2** £200 Class-leading detail and exceptional integration. Top value for money.	**Quad 11L** £379 Product of the Year 2003. Sensational sound and finish for the money.	**PMC OB1** £2450 Awesome bass combined with a sweet, precise treble and full, rich midband.
	MINI	**MICRO**	**STYLE**
Systems Full product listings p199	**Sharp XL-HP700H** £180 Great system with CD, radio and tape. Fun and full sound at a great price.	**Denon D-M31** £300 The replacement for our 2002 Product of the Year is great with CD and radio.	**Linn Classik** £1280 Great looks, build and sonic talent from this one-box CD player/tuner combo.

Other recommended kit...

SACD players

Sony SCD-XA333ES £1300
Multichannel SACD capability gives enhanced sound quality, but it's good with conventional CDs, too.

Philips 963SA £400
Good with standard discs but better with SACD – lots of drive and depth.

Phono amps

Pro-ject Phono Box £40
Exceptional – brings out the very best in sub-£300 turntables.

Speaker cables

QED Silver Anniversary £5/m
Our Product of the Year 2003 offers an amazing sonic performance.

QED XT400 £20/m (single-wire)
Best Buy 2003. Exceptional detail resolution and even tonal balance.

Personals and portables

Apple iPod £300
Product of the Year 2003. This utterly gorgeous digital jukebox is simple to use and produces a controlled, detailed sound. You'll find it hard to resist!

Sony MZ-N10 £280
Best Buy 2003. Superb MiniDisc recorder that can handle MP3 and WMA music files. A brilliant, easy way to enjoy MiniDiscs and MP3s on the move.

Headphones

Sennheiser PX100 £30
Best Buy 2003. Practical and lightweight folding headphones with a detailed sound. A real bargain.

Grado SR60 £90
An exceptional sub-£100 headphone option.

Speaker stands

Partington Super Dreadnought £140
Product of the Year 2003. Partington uses an industrial-style design to great effect yet again. This stand will give your system a real sonic boost.

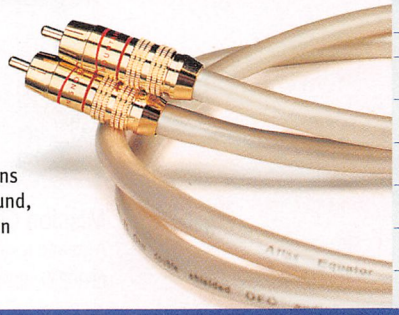
Partington's awesome Super Dreadnought; Atlas's superb Equator

Interconnects

Atlas Equator £40
Best Buy 2003. Highly impressive, offering fabulous insight.

Merlin Chopin £85
Allows a punchy, crisp sound. Comes with a radio-interference filter.

For a great pair of cans with an amazing sound, look no further than Grado's SR60 – yours for £90



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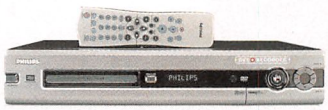
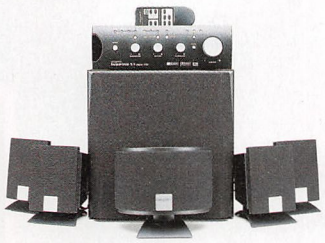
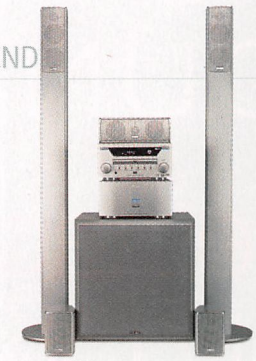
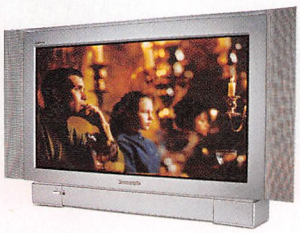
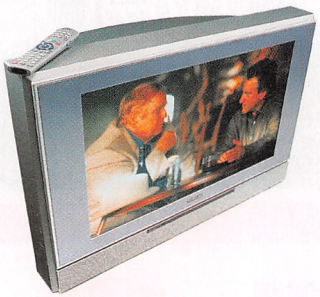
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Home cinema best buys

Here's the kit that's top of our favourites list in three price categories. Every month we'll update the list as new rivals enter the market and take on the current champions

	BUDGET	MIDRANGE	HIGH-END
DVD players Full product listings p207	**Toshiba SD-330E** £100 An upgrade of our Award-winner, the '330E is cheaper than the old model.	**Pioneer DV-565A** £250 Brilliant universal player for a bargain price. Crisp pictures and natural colours.	**TEAC DV-50** £4500 The best universal disc player we've come across. Superb sound across all formats.
DVD recorders Full product listings p207	 **Philips DVDR70** £299 A new reduced price makes this a decent buy. Good recording ability.	**Panasonic DMR-E50** £400 A great machine for fuss-free recording. Also an excellent DVD player.	**Toshiba RD-XS30** £699 Easy to use and very good HDD and DVD playback. Loads of recording space, too.
Surround amps & receivers Full product listings p217	**Pioneer VSX-D812** £330 Absolutely awesome sound from an amp with a top spec and good looks.	**Denon AVR-2803** £650 Magnificent all-round receiver with a rich balance and fully loaded specification.	**Pioneer VSA-AX10** £2700 Possibly the best surround-sound amp in the world. Staggering performance.
Processors Full product listings p218	**Yamaha DSP-E800** £350 The simplest and most affordable way to add surround sound to a hi-fi amp.	**Myryad MDP500** £1800 Hugely impressive piece of kit if used in conjunction with Myryad's own amps.	**Meridian 568** £3825 Glorious levels of performance and great build. Needs top-notch partners.
Surround speaker packages Full product listings p221	**Mission Cinema m70** £480 A great package for movies and music, giving exceptional hi-fi performance.	**KEF KHT2005.2** £800 KEF's new 'eggs' outperform their double-Award-winning predecessors.	**Acoustic Energy Evo 3B** £950 If you can accommodate full-size speakers, this package is superb.

RATINGS
Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

	BUDGET	MIDRANGE	HIGH-END
Home cinema in a box Full product listings p225	 **Creative Inspire 5.1** £280 Fantastic value. Offers a full, open presentation and powerful sound.	**Pioneer DV-565A/C-501** £650 Brilliant sound and style from this exceptional Pioneer pairing.	 **TEAC Legacy 700** £1100 Outstanding performance and great sound from this stylish system.
Widescreen CRT televisions Full product listings p229	 **Panasonic TX-28PS1** £500 Sublime picture and the style to match – this is a fabulous TV for the money.	 **Toshiba 32ZD26P** £1300 Excellent picture, superbly equipped – winner of a Best Buy Award.	**Panasonic TX-36PD30** £1700 The best conventional television picture you can get, and stylish looks to boot.
Flat TVs Full product listings p233	**Panasonic TX-15LT2** £1150 One of the few LCD TVs with a genuinely good picture. Highly desirable.	**Sony KE-32TS2** £3400 Beautifully stylish and completely integrated – with the picture to match.	**JVC PD-42D30ES** £5500 Amazing picture for a plasma, with great detail and spectacular colours.
Projectors Full product listings p233	**Optoma ThemeScene H56** £3495 Produces a smooth, richly textured, colourful picture. Well equipped, too.	**NEC HT1000** £4700 This compact cracker does nothing wrong: mind-blowing picture quality.	**Yamaha DPX-1000** £8000 Projectors don't get any better than this: low-maintenance and quite superb.

Other recommended kit...

Subwoofers

MJ Acoustics Reference 100 £350
Compact sub that adds presence to movies and is tuneful with music.

B&W ASW 750 £1250
Rock solid bass performance coupled to amazing speed and finesse.

Video cables

Ixos XHT611
£40/0.75m (Scart)

Thor RGB £35.50/m (component)

Supra X-ZAC
£60 (optical)

Profigold PGD481
£20 (coaxial)

QED Qunex TTV £35

Add beef with MJ Acoustics' Reference 100; the Ixos XHT611 is a great buy

RATINGS
- Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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Swindon 01793 610992 • **Weybridge** 01932 828525 (NEW) • **Wolverhampton** 01902 312225.
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CD players

Up to £600

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type of DAC	Digital out	Memory	Remote	Display off
Arcam DiVA CD73T	400	★★★★★	Oct 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Refined and involving performer.	M	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Arcam DiVA CD82T	600	★★★★★	Sep 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Remains a top-class contender at this price point.	M	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Cambridge Audio D500SE	200	★★☆☆☆	Jan 01	Impressive engineering, but it looks cheap and sounds restrained and uninvolving.	B	C/O	21	Yes	No
Cyrus CD6	600	★★★★★	Sep 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Sounds brilliant across the board - upgradable too.	M	O	99	Yes	Yes
Denon DCD-485	140	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Full of character and an exciting listen - match with care.	B	O	20	Yes	Yes
Exposure 2010 Titanium	599	★★★★☆	Sep 03	Highly entertaining performer but there are minor shortcomings at both frequency extreme	B	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Marantz CD4000	100	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Toe-tapper of a player - take care with system-matching and this one's a thriller.	B	C	30	Yes	No
Marantz CD5000	150	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Solid value for money, and a system-friendly sound - a very sensible buy.	B	C/O	30	Yes	No
Marantz CD5400	150	★★★★★	Aug 03	Brilliant value for money - class-leading dynamics and on the button timing.	B	C/O	30	Yes	No
Marantz CD6000 OSE LE	300	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Exciting listen - worth an audition if you like your tunes punchy and in your face.	B	C/O	30	Yes	No
Marantz CD6000KI	500	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Excellent player with refined presentation.	B	C/O	30	Yes	No
Myryad Z110	450	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Bland sonic performance - lacks the magic of this company's established machines.	B	C	24	Yes	Yes
NAD C521BEE	200	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Great sound and solid build.	B	C	20	Yes	No
NAD C541i	330	★★★★★	Oct 03	Slightly better than the storming 2002 Award winning C541i and for no extra cash.	B	C/O	20	Yes	No
Rega Planet	498	★★★★☆	Nov 02	A little polite, but a fine choice for those who want something just a little different.	H	C	99	Yes	Yes
Roksan Kandy MkIII	550	★★★★★	Sep 03	Impressive - authoritative presentation packed with detail and dynamics.	B	C	36	Yes	No
Rotel RCD-02	379	★★★★★	Aug 03	Slimline style with full-on, exciting presentation allied to control and weight.	M	C	20	Yes	No
Rotel RCD 1072	595	★★★★☆	Sep 03	Beautifully built and a joy to use but some may want a bit more sparkle.	M	C	20	Yes	No
Sony CDP-XE570	130	★★★★★	Feb 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Consistently enjoyable player whatever music you play.	B	O	24	Yes	No
TEAC C-1D	240	★★★☆☆	Aug 03	Respectable but unlikely to set hearts a-flutter. Best as part of the Distinction series.	B	O	32	Yes	Yes
Yamaha CDX-396	130	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Smooth, system-friendly player - will certainly tame bright-sounding systems.	B	Opt	20	Yes	No
Yamaha CDX-496	190	★★★☆☆	Jan 02	Good machine for the money with a relaxing, warm sound, but it faces tough competition.	B	Opt	40	Yes	Yes

£601 and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type of DAC	Digital out	Memory	Remote	Display off
Arcam CD93T	950	★★★★☆	Awd 03	Solid performer but it lacks the star quality to challenge the CD class leaders.	M	C/O	20	Yes	Yes
Arcam FMJ CD33	1300	★★★★☆	Jun 03	Warm, rich and smooth sound that's always impressive - some may find it a little too lush.	R	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Audio Analogue Paganini	795	★★★★☆	Aug 01	All-new Paganini, appeals strongly for its style and seductive sonic performance.	M	C	20	Yes	Yes
Audio Analogue Maestro	1600	★★★☆☆	Dec 02	Lacks the transparency and dynamics of the best players on the market.	M	C	20	Yes	Yes
Audio Note AN-CD2.1X	999	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Delivers an bold and dynamic sound, but this could be a little too much for some.	B	C	20	Yes	No
Audio Note AN-CD3.1X	1499	★★★★☆	Jun 01	Sounds like no other machine we've encountered - audition before taking the plunge.	B	C	20	Yes	No
Audio Refinement Complete	875	★★★☆☆	Feb 00	Wonderfully built with superb styling, but the sound can't quite match the looks.	M	C	20	No	No
✪ Copland CDA822	1598	★★★★★	Mar 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Quite simply a brilliant sonic all-rounder.	M	C	20	Yes	Yes
Creek CD50	699	★★★★☆	Sep 03	Solid machine which is musical and has a pleasantly involving presentation.	B	C	16	Yes	No
Creek CD53	1200	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Fine player, and more than justifies its price in terms of performance.	B	C/O	16	Yes	No
✪ Cyrus CD8	1000	★★★★★	Sep 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Class-leading levels of detail.	M	C/O	99	Yes	Yes
Electrocompaniet EMC1 Ref.	2249	★★★★☆	Mar 01	Classy and capable player that can really sing in the right system.	24	C/A	0	Yes	No
Krell KAV-280CD	3999	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Impressive technical tour de force, but others offer a more enjoyable, relaxing listen.	M	C/O	0	Yes	No
Krell KPS-25SC	24998	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Paired with the FPB 400cx this CD/preamp has sky-high ability to match its stellar price.	M	C/O	0	Yes	No
Linn Genki	995	★★★★★	Mar 03	Gloriously musical and beautifully built - we liked it three years ago and we still do.	B	C	20	Yes	Yes
Linn Ikemi	1950	★★★★☆	Apr 00	Precise and punchy sound and well-engineered, but falls short of the best at this price.	B	C/O	20	Yes	Yes
Marantz CD-17 MkII 'M'	800	★★★★★	Mar 03	Fine player - boasts powerful bass, musicality and spine-tingling ability.	B	C/O	30	Yes	Yes
Meridian 507	1195	★★★★★	Mar 03	Legendary Meridian quality at a sensible price - this is a great player.	M	C/O	31	Yes	Yes
Meridian 588	2100	★★★★★	Jul 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Classy British player that sounds as luxurious as it looks.	M	C/O	31	Yes	Yes
Monrio Asty Player	750	★★★★★	Apr 00	Classy Italian product that offers a sophisticated and entertaining sound.	24	C	20	Yes	No
Moon Eclipse	5500	★★★★☆	Apr 00	Very worthy machine that can sound breathtaking when carefully partnered.	M	B	30	Yes	Yes
Myryad MCD200	800	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Striking-sounding - match with a rich-sounding amp and speakers to turn on the thrills.	B	C	24	Yes	Yes
Myryad MCD 600	1300	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Thrilling stuff, a fine example of what the right kind of four-figure spend can deliver.	B	C	24	Yes	Yes
NAD Silverline S500i	1200	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Very good player, but its sound is a little too unpredictable for our tastes.	B	C	0	Yes	No
Naim CD5	1195	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Still a fine player but it's no-longer a class leader.	M	No	99	Yes	Yes
Primare D30.2	1500	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Solid performer - works at optimum levels when connected through balanced outputs.	M	C	20	Yes	Yes
Quad 99CD-P	1000	★★★★★	Mar 03	Unusual and impressive - six digital inputs give it flexibility.	B	O	50	Yes	Yes
Rega Jupiter	998	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Smooth, rich and detailed its warmth will appeal to many.	H	C	24	No	Yes
Roksan Caspian MkII	995	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Been around a good while but its been regularly tweaked so it's still competitive.	B	C	20	Yes	No
Roksan Attessa DP3.P	1600	★★★★★	Apr 99	An exceptional player from Roksan with striking styling and an ear-friendly sound.	B	C	20	Yes	No
Saxon CD700	750	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Impressive player and careful partnering could make the most of its qualities.	B	O	0	Yes	Yes
Sugden Bijou CD Master	1299	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Unusually cute styling and plenty of weight and authority - bass lines can sound slow.	M	C	99	Yes	No
Sugden Masterclass	2700	★★★★★	Jun 02	Excellent in its own right and makes a superb combination with the Masterclass amp.	M	B	99	Yes	No
T+A CD1240R	1800	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Solidly designed but it sadly doesn't live up to the promise of its build and technology.	BM	C/O	20	No	Yes
TAG McLaren Audio CD20R	1000	★★★★☆	Nov 98	High levels of performance match its build standard, but it faces stiff competition.	B	C	60	Yes	Yes
Talk Electronics Thunder 1.2	700	★★★☆☆	Sep 03	Talk's latest entry-level CD player just doesn't inspire.	M	O	24	Yes	Yes
Talk Electronics Thunder 3.1	1700	★★★★★	Sep 02	Stunning machine showing that there's still life in high-end CD players.	H	O	24	Yes	Yes
Talk Electronics Thunder 3.1 Bal	1900	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Competent player but it fails to inspire at this price point.	H	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Unison Research Unico CD	1095	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Refined and beautifully built player which delivers a warm and full-bodied sound.	M	C	0	Yes	No

KEY | **DAC** Turns digital data into an analogue signal to feed to your amp, and can have a major influence on the sound. B = singlebit including Delta/Sigma, M = multibit; H = hybrid, R = Ring, O = other **Digital output** O = optical, C = coaxial electrical, B = BNC electrical, A = AES/EBU balanced electrical. **Memory** The number of tracks that can be stored. **Display off** Can give a subtle improvement in sound.

RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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PRODUCT:	SALE PRICE:	OSP/WERE:	QUANTITY IN STORES:
Amplifiers:			
Sony TAFE370	only £49.95	(OSP/WERE £99.95)	41
Denon PMA255	only £49.95	(OSP/WERE £159.95)	53
Marantz PM6010 KI SIG	only £149.95	(OSP/WERE £299.95)	24
NAD C350	only £149.95	(OSP/WERE £299.95)	32
CD Players:			
Technics SLPG4	only £29.95	(OSP/WERE £99.95)	41
Yamaha CDX396	only £39.95	(OSP/WERE £99.95)	32
Sony SCDXE670	only £79.95	(OSP/WERE £249.95)	27
DVD Players:			
LG DV5253	only £29.95	(OSP/WERE £79.95)	96
Limit DVD9091	only £29.95	(OSP/WERE £149.95)	102
Acoustic Solutions DVD521	only £39.95	(OSP/WERE £119.95)	152
Cyberhome ADL528	only £49.95	(OSP/WERE £99.95)	1040
Yamaha DVDS530	only £49.95	(OSP/WERE £179.95)	104
Pioneer DV454	only £79.95	(OSP/WERE £199.95)	46
NAD T531	only £99.95	(OSP/WERE £299.95)	62
Pioneer DV939	only £299.95	(OSP/WERE £849.95)	40
Home Cinema Receivers:			
Technics SADA8	only £59.95	(OSP/WERE £269.95)	45
Kenwood DVFR4050	only £69.95	(OSP/WERE £199.95)	69
HiFi Receiver:			
Sherwood R925	only £99.95	(OSP/WERE £299.95)	123

PRODUCT:	SALE PRICE:	OSP/WERE:	QUANTITY IN STORES:
Musicstyle Systems:			
Yamaha TSX20	only £79.95	(OSP/WERE £169.95)	47
Speakers:			
Eltax Symphony 2.3	only £19.95	(OSP/WERE £99.95)	37
JPW 208	only £19.95	(OSP/WERE £119.95)	78
JPW 203	only £59.95	(OSP/WERE £199.95)	37
Speaker Package:			
API Athena P5	only £149.95	(OSP/WERE £199.95)	34
Tuners:			
Yamaha TX396	only £39.95	(OSP/WERE £99.95)	39
Marantz ST4000	only £49.95	(OSP/WERE £119.95)	43
Sony STSE570	only £59.95	(OSP/WERE £119.95)	37
DAB Tuners:			
Videologic DRX601ESM	only £99.95	(OSP/WERE £249.95)	52
Twin Cassette Decks:			
Yamaha KXW321	only £59.95	(OSP/WERE £169.95)	58
Sony TCWE475	only £59.95	(OSP/WERE £149.95)	39

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Limit HC40 HC Speakers - £99.95; Cyberhome DVD505 DVD Player - £49.95

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CD transports & DACs

Up to £4500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Transport or DAC	Sampling rate	Digital out	Memory	Display off
Audio Note DAC One 1x	749	★★★★★	Sep 00	Superbly natural, this cracking DAC succeeds in giving CDs new life.	D	44.1/48	C/A		No
Mark Levinson No 37	4495	★★★★★	Jun 96	Uses an industrial CD-ROM drive - it's built like a truck and a delight to use.	T	-	C	99	Yes
Meridian 566.24	1475	★★★★☆	Feb 99	Good range of input/output flexibility but with 500 transport it lacks spark and spirit.	D	32/44.1/48	C/O		No
TAG McLaren Audio CDT20R-T2L	1100	★★★★★	Nov 00	Combine with the TAG DPA32R DAB digital preamplifier for an extremely musical player.	T	44.1/16	C/O/A	59	Yes

KEY | **DAC** Turns digital data into an analogue signal to feed to your amp, and can have a major influence on the sound. B = Singlebit including Delta/Sigma, M = multibit, H = hybrid, R = Ring, O = other. **Sampling/bit rate** The maximum resolution of a DAC. CD is 44.1kHz/16-bit, full-blown DVD-Audio is 192kHz/24-bit, SACD uses its own single-bit system, DSD. **Memory** The number of tracks that can be stored. **Digital out/in** Bear in mind that the input on a DAC should match the transport's digital outputs O = optical, C = coaxial electrical, B = BNC electrical, A = AES/EBU balanced electrical

CD multiplayers

Up to £300

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type of DAC	No of discs	Digital out	Memory	Headphone	Remote
Pioneer PD-F958	230	★★★☆☆	Nov 99	Offers great convenience and is easy to use, but its sound ultimately disappoints.	B	101	O	36	Yes	Yes
Pioneer PD-F1009	250	★★★★☆	Nov 00	Much to offer - logical and fuss-free to program and a hard multiplayer to beat for sound.	B	301	O	36	Yes	Yes
Pioneer PD-F1007	300	★★★☆☆	Sep 99	Great for parties, pubs or the incredibly lazy, but average sound quality lets it down.	B	301	O	36	Yes	Yes

KEY | **DAC** Turns digital data into an analogue signal to feed to your amp, and can have a major influence on the sound. B = Singlebit including Delta/Sigma, M = multibit, H = hybrid, R = Ring, O = other. **No of Discs** The number of discs that can be loaded into the unit. **Digital output** O = optical, C = coaxial electrical, B = BNC electrical, AES/EBU = balanced electrical **Memory** The number of tracks that can be stored. **Headphone** Has it got a headphone socket?

SACD players

Up to £3000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type of DAC	Digital out	Memory	Remote	Display off
Philips DVD963SA	400	★★★★★	Jul 03	Oodles of snap, drive and depth to SACD performance and pleasing with standard discs.	M	C/O	20	Yes	No
Pioneer DV-747A	900	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Universal disc player; plays anything you care to throw at it, including DVD-V and DVD-A.	M	C/O	20	Yes	Yes
Sony SCD-XE670	200	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Extremely good with SACD and it's multichannel. Not exactly stunning with CD.	B	O	24	Yes	Yes
Sony SCD-XB780	300	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Solid but disappointing multichannel player. Fine with SACD but poor with standard CDs.	B	C/O	32	Yes	Yes
Sony SCD-XA333ES	1200	★★★★★	Jul 03	Great sound-quality with SACD discs and it's also a highly accomplished CD player too.	B	C/O	24	Yes	Yes
Sony SCD-1	2700	★★★★☆	Sep 99	Outperformed with CD but with SACD it delivers superb clarity, slam and insight.	B	C/O	24	Yes	Yes

KEY | **DAC** All SACD players are based on the single-bit Direct Stream Digital format, which brings its own decoders and conversion technology. **Digital output** (Currently these players only output digitally from CD, not SACD) O = optical, C = coaxial electrical, B = BNC electrical, AES/EBU = balanced electrical **Memory** The number of tracks that can be stored. **Display off** Can give a subtle improvement in sound.

Personal digital recorders/players

Up to £300

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Formats	Storage capacity	Connectivity	Compatibility	Max battery life	Weight
✪ **Apple iPod**	300	★★★★★	Aug 03	Product of the Year 2003. True object of desire - sexy looking and a sound to match.	C,M	15G	F,U	P/M	8	158
Creative MuVo	100	★★★☆☆	Aug 03	One of the first ultra-portable digital music players on the market - there are better now.	M,W	18M	U	P/M	12	39
Creative Jukebox 2	200	★★★☆☆	Aug 03	OK, but the 10GB iPod costs just £50 extra - we know which we'd rather have.	M,W	10G	U	P	16	249
Creative Jukebox 3	300	★★★★★	Aug 03	Product of the Year 2002. Best-sounding digital portable around, but it's bulky.	M,W	20G	F,U	P	22	289
Creative Zen	300	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Strong, compact performer, but the new generation of iPods has left it looking chunky.	M,W	20G	F,U	P	12	268
iRiver iFP-390T	220	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Tiny, talented player, but it's more expensive than most of its ultra-portable rivals.	M,W	256M	U	P	24	55
M-Any T-Mate	150	★★★☆☆	Aug 03	Clever combination of voice recorder and player - but playback only sounds average.	M,W	128M	U	P	8	35
Mpio DMK128	140	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Dump the dreadful headphones and this likeable player will serve you well.	M,W,V	128M	U	P/M	10	29
Mpio HD100	300	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Unsophisticated but it has radio and voice recorder - packs a lot of punch for the money.	M,W,F	20G	U	P	10	198
Philips HDD100	300	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Why buy this iPod imitation when the original sounds far better for the same money	M,W	15G	U	P	10	167
Prestel Adapt DR201	229	★★★☆☆	Jun 03	Packs in digital and FM tuners, plus MP3 player - jack of all trades, but master of none.	M,D,F	64M	U	P	6	73

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RATINGS
✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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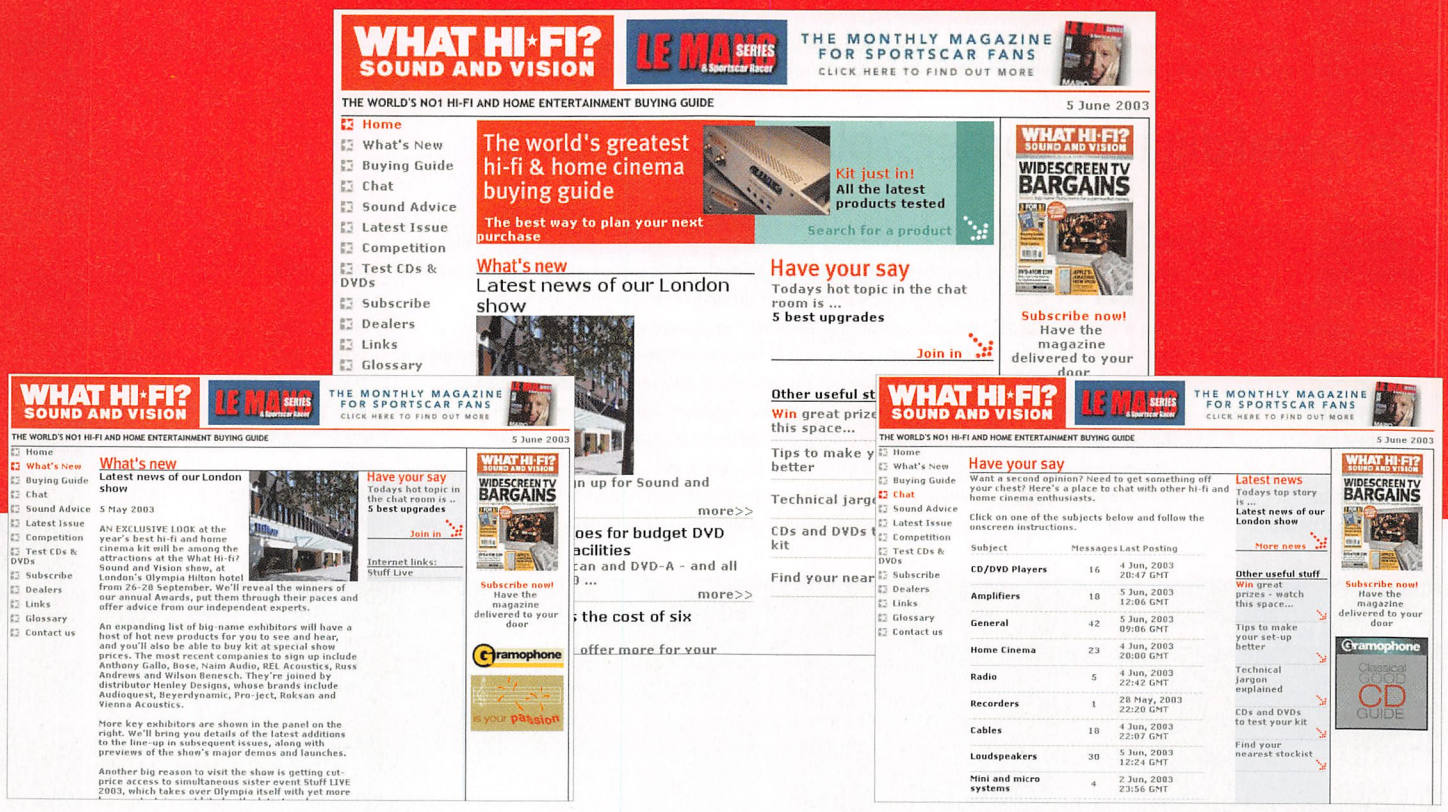

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Personal digital recorders/players

Up to £300

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Formats	Storage capacity	Connectivity	Compatibility	Max battery life	Weight
Rio Riot	290	★★★★☆	Feb 03	Good range of features including a radio. Can't quite match the best jukeboxes around.	M,V,W,F	20G	U	P/M	10	340
Sharp IM-MT899H	210	★★★★★	Dec 02	Vast array of talents - it isn't cheap, but it sounds great.	M,W,A	N/A	U	P	33	130
Sony MZ-N1	260	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Lots for your money including NetMD for transferring music from computer to MiniDisc.	A	N/A	U	P	40	188
✪ Sony MZ-N10	280	★★★★★	Aug 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Superb MiniDisc and digital music functionality.	M,W,A	N/A	U	P	58	84
Unitech Duex MP304	120	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Versatile little player that makes up for in performance what it lacks in polish.	M,V,W,F	128M	U	P	10	33

KEY | **Formats** Playback formats supported W=WMA, C=AAC, A=ATRAC(MD), M=MP3, V=WAV,F=FM, D=DAB. **Storage capacity** M=Megabyte, G=Gigabyte. **Connectivity** F=FireWire, U=USB. **Compatibility** P=PC, M=Mac. **Max battery life** Hours of battery life. **Weight** In grams

Digital recorders

Up to £1200

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Sampling rate converter	Formats	Inputs	Outputs
Denon CDR-W1500	450	★★☆☆☆	Feb 03	Twin-tray machine - sadly it's too expensive and simply can't live with its rivals.	Yes	CD-R	C/O/L	C/O/L
NAD C660	500	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Fine-sounding twin-deck machine for both CD playback and recording.	Yes	CD-RW	C/O	C/O
Onkyo MB-S1	1200	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Hard-disk recorder with onboard MP3 compression - respectable but others do better.	Yes	HD	C/O	C/O
Pioneer MJ-D508	200	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Just right for recording pop and dance for portable playback.	Yes	MD	C/O/L	C/L
Pioneer PDR-609	280	★★★★☆	Feb 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Challenged by the Sony RCD-W3 now.	Yes	CD-RW	C/O/L	C/O/L
Sony MDS-JE480	130	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Capable deck for the money - does a good job of recording within the format's limitations.	Yes	MD	O/L	L
✪ Sony RCD-W3	250	★★★★★	Feb 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Good performance, right price and it's a breeze to use.	Yes	CD-RW	O/L	O/L
Sony MXD-D40	330	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Direct recordings from CD to MD is simplicity itself. Reasonable as a CD player too.	Yes	MD/CD	O/L	L
Sony MDS-JA333ES	600	★★★★★	Jul 01	Challenges CD-RW for quality of sound, while bringing all the benefits of MiniDisc.	Yes	MD	C/O/L	C/O/L
TEAC MDH-500i	350	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Stylish and well-built - will fit well with the 500 series and other brands.	No	MD	O	O
Terratec C.A.R.4000	799	★★☆☆☆	Dec 02	CD player and hard-disk recorder - more for the computer buffs than hi-fi enthusiasts.	Yes	HD	O/L	O/L
✪ Yamaha CDR-HD1300E	600	★★★★★	Feb 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Quality of CD-RW and flexibility of a hard disk.	Yes	HD/CD-RW	C/O/L	C/O/L

KEY | **Sampling rate converter** Both CD-R/RW and MiniDisc decks record at the same sampling frequency as CD, ie 44.1KHz. Here we indicate if there's a sampling rate converter for use with other digital sources, such as digital radio tuners. **Format** What kind of recorder is it? Currently the mainstream choice is between MiniDisc (MD), CD-Recordable (CD-R) and CD-Rewritable (CD-RW). Expect to see more machines also offering Hard Disc recording (HD), or a HD/CD-RW mix in the near future. **Inputs/outputs** A digital input allows sources such as CD to be recorded, output delivers digital data to a D/A converter or digital recorder. Line inputs are for analogue sources. O = optical, C = coaxial: L=line

Cassette recorders

Up to £650

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Decks	Heads	Dolby	Calibration	Headphones
Denon DRW-585	200	★★★★★	Aug 01	Cracker of a twin-tape recorder with top-quality copies and great sound.	2	2	B/C/HXPro	No	Yes
Pioneer CT-S250	150	★★★★☆	Aug 97	Sensibly-priced and capable of good results. But some rivals offer as much for less.	1	2	B/C	No	No
Pioneer CT-W606DR	200	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Good budget buy for copying from tape-to-tape, dynamics and detail remain faithful.	2	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	No
Pioneer CT-W806DR	300	★★★★☆	Oct 97	Highly recommended in the Awards 1997. Great fun and innovative.	2	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	No
Sony TCK-A6ES	650	★★★★★	Jun 96	Highly recommended in the Awards 1996. Built like a truck with a 'must have' sound.	1	3	B/C/S/HXPro	Man	Yes
TEAC V-1050	180	★★★★★	Sep 98	Great price for a three-head deck and everything a home recording fan could ask for.	1	3	B/C/HXPro	No	Yes
TEAC V-6030S	550	★★★★★	Jun 97	A tweaker's deck which rewards with remarkably faithful copies.	1	3	B/C/S/HXPro	Auto	Yes
Yamaha KX-393	160	★★★★★	Sep 98	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Easy to use and produces excellent results.	1	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	Yes
Yamaha KX-493	200	★★★★★	Apr 99	A purist deck delivering great performance for not much money.	1	2	B/C/HXPro	Auto	Yes
Yamaha KX-580SE	250	★★★★★	Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Quality copies and good sound.	1	2	B/C/S/HXPro	Auto	Yes

KEY | **Decks** How many decks does the machine have? There are some single-deck recorders, but twin-decks are very popular. **Heads** The minimum for any recorder is two: one to erase the tape, the other to record, but three-head decks allow recordings to be monitored as they are made. **Dolby** What kind of noise reduction is there? Dolby B and the more advanced Dolby C are usual, while Dolby S gives enhanced hiss reduction and better sound. **Calibration/Fine Bias** The calibration system (usually automated) found on some decks dials in the deck to the tape in use. Fine bias allows the treble to be adjusted.

Turntables

Up to £14,150

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Speed	Operation	Arm	Cartridge	Drive
✪ Audio Note TT1/Arm One/IQ1	725	★★★★★	Nov 01	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Affordable, well built and sounds excellent.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Audio Note TT2+Arm 2+IQ3	1497	★★★★☆	May 03	Well engineered, versatile deck that works with any recording - but it fails to excite.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Audio Note TT2+Arm 2+I/O1	2393	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Cartridge has extremely low output so you'll need the £2499 transformer. Great sound.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Avid Volvere	2000	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Tested with an SME V arm and Dynavector D17 D2 II cartridge. Deserves your attention.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Avid Acutus	5000	★★★★★	Oct 99	This steel wheel cruises effortlessly through everything from jazz to rock.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Bush MTT1	50	★★★★★	Feb 96	Build quality is lacking but the mini-sized bush manages to astound.	33/45	S	Yes	No	Belt
Clearaudio Solution	800	★★★☆☆	Jun 99	Distinctive looks with frosted acrylic platter, but its rivals highlight its weaknesses.	33	-	No	No	Belt
Clearaudio Champion	930	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Great-looking deck that performs well and is easily upgradable.	33	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Clearaudio Evolution	2860	★★★★☆	May 00	Fashioned from transparent acrylic - delivers music with supreme clarity and crispness.	33	A	Yes	No	Belt
Clearaudio Master Ref/TQI/Vic	14150	★★★★★	Aug 01	For those who have the money and the desire this is one of the very best.	33	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Linn Sondek LP12	1250	★★★★☆	Jul 93	Entry-level legend sounds extraordinarily persuasive. Can be upgraded cost-effectively.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Linn Sondek LP12/Lingo	2100	★★★★★	Awd 94	Best turntable in Awards 1994, this classic has a warmth and faithfulness few can match.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Michell TecnoDec+HR pow supply	575	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Sounds wonderfully musical and it is simple to set up.	33/45	m	No	No	b
✪ Michell Gyrodec SE	870	★★★★★	May 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Class-leading, few rivals get near its style or sound.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Michell Gyrodec	1283	★★★★☆	Feb 94	Eye-catcher which performs at a level hard to beat at the price.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Michell Orbe SE	1916	★★★★★	Jun 01	Big on bass, the Orbe combines striking looks with stunning sound.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt

RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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Turntables

Up to £14,150

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Speed	Operation	Arm	Cartridge	Drive
NAD 533/Goldring Elektra	220	★★★★☆	Apr 01	Solid piece of kit and fine value for money but can't offer the thrills others deliver.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Nottingham Analogue Interspace	587	★★★★★	Jun 96	Remarkable musicality and low cost (at least in high-end terms) make it a bargain.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Nottingham Analogue Anna Log	6451	★★★★★	Aug 97	30kg of cast iron and 17th-century timber - possibly the best turntable you can buy.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Origin Live Ultra Kit	722	★★★★★	Nov 01	Once assembled it sounds fantastic - a thoroughly purist deck in all respects.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Origin Live Aurora	1196	★★★★★	Oct 03	Stellar performer with a wonderfully realistic presentation.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Pro-ject Debut II/Ortofon OMB5E	120	★★★★★	Aug 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Sounds tight and enjoyable, a great first buy.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Pro-ject Debut Phono SB	170	★★★★★	Oct 02	Terrific, at this price point there's simply no other choice - has a phono stage built-in.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Pro-ject 1 Xpression	210	★★★★★	Sep 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Great-value deck and sounds remarkable.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Pro-ject 2/Ortofon 510 II	300	★★★★★	Aug 00	Highly-engineered, the Pro-ject offers superb resolution and impressive timing.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Pro-ject RPM Four/Orto 510 Mk2	350	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Very grown-up - conveys that lovely organic feel you get from great vinyl playback.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Pro-ject RPM6	500	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Great, but add a cartridge and it's expensive - music has excellent power and weight.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Pro-ject Perspective	750	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Exotic-looking and sounds great - as good at pounding out dance track as orchestral pieces.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Pro-ject RPM9	1000	★★★★★	Aug 02	Fabulous deck by any standards, both the looks and the sound to take on the very best.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Rega P2	198	★★★★★	Jun 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Astounding level of bass, allied to superb rhythm and attack.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Rega P3	298	★★★★★	Aug 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Much of the finesse of decks that cost twice as much.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Rega Planar 25	619	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Great-sounding product that maintains Rega's tradition of simple yet effective turntables.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Reson Rota 1/Reson Reta/Etile	3100	★★★★★	May 00	Terrific if you buy for your ears rather than your eyes - excellent punch and precision.	33	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Roksan Radius 5 (wood finish)	750	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Solid performer that hardly puts a foot wrong. Should be on any sub-£1000 audition list.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Roksan Xerxes 10	1100	★★★★★	Jun 01	Great all-rounder, will please rockers and classical buffs alike with a fatigue-free listen.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
SME Model 20/2A	3113	★★★★☆	Sep 96	The precision makes it worth seeking out, for gutsy rock you may be tempted elsewhere.	33/45/78	-	No	No	Belt
SOTA Comet Supreme	995	★★★☆☆	Nov 01	Offers an attractive sonic performance, but finish and cosmetics are below par.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
SOTA Millennia	7350	★★★★☆	May 00	Fabulous-sounding deck that despite its looks brings out the magic of any LP collection.	33/45	-	No	No	Belt
Sound By Design Quasar LE/CG	3585	★★★★☆	Aug 97	An unusual approach to turntable design, but one which works really well.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt
Technics SL1210 MK5G	550	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Solid, dependable DJ deck, but it can't keep up in the world of sound per pound.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Direct
VPI HW-19 Junior	650	★★★★★	Mar 98	A truly involving listen and peerless at this price. Includes a Rega RB300 arm.	33/45	M	Yes	No	Belt
Wilson Benesch The Full Circle	1995	★★★★★	Jun 01	Precision and space, with a smooth yet detailed treble and gutsy bass. Superb value.	33/45	M	Yes	Yes	Belt

KEY | Speeds 33⅓rpm for LPs, 45rpm for singles. A few offer 78rpm but very old discs are best played with a dedicated cartridge. **Operation** Automatic and semi-automatic turntables lift the arm on reaching the end of a record, but sound quality suffers. The best-sounding turntables are manual. **Arm** Is there one, or is it just a motor unit? **Cartridge** Is one provided as part of the package? **Drive** How is the platter driven? Belt drive offers the best isolation from motor noise.

Tuners

Up to £2500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Bands	Presets	Auto tune	RDS
Acoustic Solutions SP110	130	★★★☆☆	Dec 02	Budget digital tuner, readily available on the high street, but it is far from perfect.	D	DAB	4	Yes	No
Arcam DiVA T61	250	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Fine tuner with a smooth generous sound. But it faces tough competition.	A	FM/MW/LW	30	Yes	Yes
Arcam DiVA DT81	650	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Logical choice if you have a DiVA or FMJ system but there are very strong rivals around.	D	DAB	16	Yes	Yes
AVI S2000MT II	899	★★★★☆	May 99	Smooth and musical and offers seven wavebands and RDS, to boot.	A	FM/MW/LW/SW	80	No	Yes
Cambridge Audio DAB300	120	★★★★★	May 03	No-nonsense digital tuner that's both a fine performer and a great-value buy.	D	DAB	10	Yes	No
Cambridge Audio DAB500	150	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Fine sound quality with good bass and crisp treble.	D	DAB	10	Yes	No
Cambridge Audio T500	180	★★★★☆	Oct 98	Looks simple but sounds superb for the money. Worthy of serious consideration.	A	FM/MW/LW	67	Yes	No
Cymbol Electronics C-DAB1	1149	★★★★☆	Feb 00	Digital tuner that shines with classical concerts, due to its revealing sound.	D	DAB	8	Yes	No
Cyrus FM X	500	★★★★☆	Oct 03	One for the FM radio purist. Capable of superb sound, but could be too basic for some.	A	FM	29	Yes	No
Denon TU-260L MK II	130	★★★★★	Apr 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Good value for money and makes a fine upgrade.	A	FM/MW/LW	40	Yes	Yes
Linn Pekin	600	★★★★★	Oct 01	Laidback sound is easy on the ear, but detail and dynamics are plentiful.	A	FM/MW	80	Yes	No
Meridian 504	795	★★★★★	Nov 94	'Warm-sounding, this is one of the few elite FM tuners on the market.	A	FM	30	No	No
Myryad MT 100	600	★★★☆☆	Jul 98	Gives consistently warm and generous sound but doesn't stand out against competition.	A	FM	29	No	No
NAD C422	180	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Works well enough and sounds good for the money, but it's not a product to inspire lust.	A	FM/AM	30	No	Yes
Naim NAT05	765	★★★★★	Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. The NAT05 has the power to amaze.	A	FM	99	Yes	No
Pure Digital Evoke-1 (portable)	100	★★★★★	Feb 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Sounds good in mono and can be upgraded to stereo.	D	DAB	9	Yes	No
Pure Digital Pocket DAB1000	180	★★★★☆	Aug 03	If you're a DAB devotee, and can justify the money, you'll love this pocket-sized Pure.	D	DAB	10	Yes	No
Pure Digital DRX-701ES	249	★★★★★	Oct 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. A quality home tuner for digital radio.	D	DAB	99	Yes	No
Pure Digital DRX-702ES	330	★★★★★	Jul 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Most affordable hybrid tuner to date.	D/A	D/FM/MW	99	Yes	No
Pure Digital DRX-601EX (Portable)	500	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Classy portable digital radio that you can use anywhere or attach to a hi-fi system.	D	DAB	0	Yes	No
Roksan Caspian	745	★★★★☆	Nov 98	Stylish looks and a persuasive sound. Will appeal mainly to Caspian owners.	A	FM	50	Yes	No
Sony ST-SB920	180	★★★★★	Jan 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Nice all-rounder and it's solid and well styled.	A	FM/MW/LW	30	Yes	Yes
Sony ST-SA3ES	280	★★★★☆	Jun 96	Highly Recommended in the 1996 Awards. Even flatters processed sound of rock stations.	A	FM/MW/LW	30	Yes	Yes
Sony ST-D777ES	600	★★★★★	Feb 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Best of all worlds: DAB, FM, MW, LW plus stacks of presets.	D/A	D/FM/MW/LW	99	Yes	Yes
TAG McLaren Audio T32R DAB	2290	★★★★★	Jun 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Highly enjoyable, state-of-the-art digital radio.	D/A	D/FM/MW/LW	99	Yes	Yes
TEAC T-1D	200	★★★★☆	Jun 03	Match with the C-1D and the A-1D amplifier - good but less exciting than we'd hoped.	A	FM/MW	30	Yes	Yes
TEAC T-H300DAB	220	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Fine match for TEAC's Reference Series and cheap, but the sound quality isn't special.	D/A	DAB/FM/MW	30	Yes	Yes
Yamaha TX-396L	130	★★★☆☆	Oct 00	Inoffensive if somewhat bland sound - will fit into a wide range of systems with ease.	A	FM/MW/LW	40	Yes	No
Yamaha TX-492RDS	150	★★★☆☆	Apr 98	Good facilities and performance at a sensible price but not truly outstanding.	A	FM/MW	40	Yes	Yes

KEY | **Type** Modern hi-fi tuners offer stereo reception either on FM analogue (A) or digital radio, also known as DAB (D). Some even offer both modes of reception. **Bands** D = digital radio/DAb, FM = rM stereo, MW = medium wave, LW = long wave. **Presets** How many memory positions are available to store favourite stations? Less important with digital radio, due to the way the broadcasts are received and accessed. RDS The Radio Data System, transmitted with FM analogue broadcasts, allows a range of extra facilities including Radiotext, station-naming and automatic retuning.

RATINGS
- Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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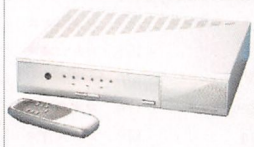
CP-2 (Phono) £34.95
CP-2S (Scart) £39.95
NEW! Replica 1 (Scart RGB) Works with all DVD Recorders £79.95

Home entertainment 'total control' centre



5 Scart inputs (4 x RGB). Remote and auto switch functions. Extra features include - option to record 2 different videos at the same time - extra outputs for videosender, hi-fi, etc. Smart silver finish matches all modern AV equipment.

Five-way RGB Auto/ Remote Scart Controller
Trilogy 1 £99

RGB Scart from DVD or Digibox to Plasma

Convert a RGB scart output from DVD or Digibox to RGBVH signal (15kHz). Use with supplied 15D-15D cable or with optional 15D-5xBNC cable. Compatible with many Plamsa screens and projectors.

Scart Sync Separator
CSR-2200 £49

Watch and Control Satellite or VCR round your house

No wiring - send DVD, SAT, Video, etc. to any room in your house. New improved version gives crystal clear picture and sound and also lets you control your equipment remotely with your existing remotes. Easy plug and play version.

Videosender system
VSplus £79.95
Extra receivers £45

Add a Scart Socket to your Plasma / Projector

Convert the Scart RGB output from a DVD or Digibox to high quality Component (YUV) signal. Ideal for Plasma and Projectors not fitted with scart sockets. Use with our Prolink PYUV cable for superb picture quality.

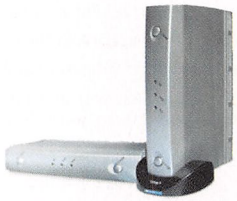
RGB to Component Converter
CSY-2100 £75

The Go anywhere Mini- monitor

Handy 12 volt operation. Ideal for In-car entertainment, GPS navigation or Camcorder monitor. 2 x AV switchable inputs, 2 x built-in speakers - complete with stand. Picture can be inverted up/down/left/right.

5" TFT LCD Screen
5LCD £149

Not enough RGB Scart inputs on your TV



Fully automatic 3 way RGB Scart switch box. Auto RGB and W/screen switching. Free stand allows vertical or horizontal use to suit your AV equipment. Make into a 4 way switch by feeding VCR thru' your digibox. No signal loss.

Scart Extender & Auto RGB Switcher
Trilogy2 £59

Two equal RGB Scart Outputs

2 equal Scart outputs from any source. Ideal for connecting the output of any DVD or Digibox when you need to retain an equal signal and feed to 2 different monitors or make 2 video copies. RGB, S video, CV compatible. Complete with DC PS unit.

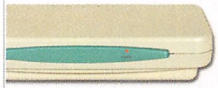
Active 2 way Scart Amplifier
SC-AMP2 £39.95

High Quality Video & DVD Copies

Correct unstable videos with this digital full frame synchronizer. Restore vert, horiz, syncs + colour burst. Adjust colour, brightness, contrast, sharpness. Eliminate picture jitter, remove copy protect. Built in AGC. CV+S video in/out.

Time Base Corrector
CTB-100 £199
CTB-100 G (with genlock) £249

S-Video signal from your Digibox or DVD



Converts a RGB signal from DVD or Digibox to a high quality S video signal. Ideal for routing thru' Surround amps. or connecting to Projectors, etc.
Also available - Component to RGB converter, Digital to Analogue converters, etc.

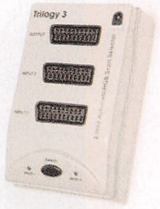
RGB to S-Video plus Composite Converter
RGB-S £50

Change any Audio-Video Signal to RF

Converts any AV signal from DVD, Camcorder, etc. to a user selected RF signal. Microprocessor control ensures no interference with other channels. Ideal for TVs without scart socket. Supplied with scart adaptor, AV cables plus DC adaptor.

Microprocessor-controlled RF modulator
CVS-5 £49

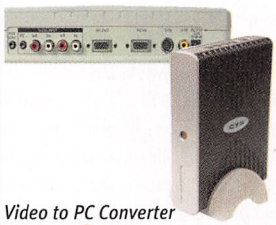
Two into one will go!



Ideal for connecting 2 RGB sources eg. Digibox plus DVD into a single Scart socket. Auto switches any RGB, S video or Composite video signal. Manual push-button over-ride. Supplied with 12volt PSU.

Two way Automatic RGB Scart Switch
Trilogy 3 £39.95

Utilize the PC input on your Plasma/ Projector



Turn any video signal into a high quality PC signal. Convert any S video or CV into a choice of VGA, SVGA, XGA PC image. Switch CV, S + loopthrough PC + audio. Just one of a range of PC and Video interfaces - see web for more info.

Video to PC Converter
CM-340 £120

NEW! SCART - VGA/SVGA/XGA
Presenter 1 Available soon

Convert all World Video Standards

NTSC - PAL - SECAM

The largest range of Digital Standards converters in Europe now available. From Budget multistandard to full 19" rack mounted studio quality models. Built in TBCs allow you to copy any format signal and also remove any spurious syncs.

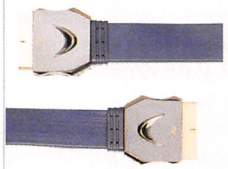
NTSC - PAL - SECAM
Analogue from £49.95 Digital from £150

Add stunning visuals to your video productions

Hundreds of effects, wipes, mixes, fades, etc. Digital effects - Strobe, mosaic, paint, negative, chroma and luminance. Multi sized Picture in picture - joystick control. Dual TBC. 4 inputs, 4 outputs. Audio mixing, source switching, etc., etc.

Real Time Video Mixer
CMX-07 £499

Every cable you need to connect all your AV kit



A superb range of off the shelf and custom made cables to suit any AV system. 24 Karat gold plated connectors, OFC cable, etc.3 great ranges to suit your budget. Connect up now and see and hear both picture and sound improvement.

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PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Power	Line level inputs	Phonostage	Tape loops	Speakers	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote
Arcam DiVA A65 Plus	370	★★★★½	Jul 03	Still a fine buy, even if it doesn't dominate the budget market as it once did.	A	40	4	m	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ariston AX-910	80	★★★★½	Jul 98	As a rocker this amp is undefeated under £100. It mixes real guts with subtlety.	A	30	4	Opt	1	1	Yes	No	No
Audio Analogue Puccini	495	★★★★½	Sep 99	Classy amp, with warm, generous sound and for some its Latin refinement will be alluring.	A	40	5	m/c	1	1	No	No	No
Cambridge Audio A1 Mk3 SE	120	★★★★½	Jul 99	Built to a high standard and well-balanced, but you can buy better for not much more.	A	30	4	Opt	1	1	Yes	No	No
Cambridge Audio A5	120	★★★★★	Jul 01	Best Buy in Awards 2001. Rich and powerful, combining weight and insight	A	60	5	No	1	1	No	Yes	No
Cambridge Audio A500	200	★★★★½	Jul 03	So nearly a bargain, but it can sound harsh and overbright - not quite a true all-rounder.	A	65	4	m	1	2	Yes	No	Yes
Denon PMA-255UK	140	★★★★½	Feb 02	An exciting amp for your money, but care is needed with system-matching.	A	30	4	No	1	1	Yes	Yes	No
Denon DRA-455	200	★★★★★	Aug 01	Good value and best of all, it sounds great. Even the phono stage sounds acceptable.	R	52	2	m	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Denon PMA-355UK	230	★★★½☆	Dec 02	Had a good run but this UK-tuned version has met its match with the latest sub £300 amps	A	50	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Harman-Kardon HK670	300	★★★★½	Apr 03	Good, powerful and well-thought-out amp, but it faces tough competition.	A	75	5	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marantz PM4200	180	★★★★½	Apr 02	Nicely balanced amp, able to work well in a wide range of systems.	A	30	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marantz PM4400OSE	250	★★★½☆	Awd 03	Decent performance, it will appeal to those in search of a calming audio experience.	A	30	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
✪ Marantz PM7200	330	★★★★★	Jul 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Exciting in Class AB mode, stunning in Class A.	A	95	4	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marantz PM6010 KI	400	★★★★½	Feb 02	Excellent, provides an enticing glimpse of audiophile quality at a very good price.	A	50	3	m	2	1	No	Yes	Yes
Myryad Z140	450	★★★★½	May 03	Looks the business and will appeal to vinyl-lovers, but it needs punchy partnering kit.	A	50	4	m	2	1	No	Yes	Yes
NAD C320BEE	220	★★★★★	Dec 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Plenty of power and impressive levels of detail.	A	50	5	Opt	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
NAD C350	300	★★★★½	Jul 03	Still a very good amp, especially with tricky speaker loads, but the competition is tough.	A	60	5	No	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
NAD C352	350	★★★½☆	Oct 03	Weighty sound with enjoyable detail but the bass can be ponderous.	A	80	5	No	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
NAD C370	450	★★★★½	Feb 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Still impressive but others have better dynamics.	A	120	5	No	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Onkyo A-9211	199	★★★½☆	Oct 99	Inoffensive sound, with a good range of facilities, but the sparkle isn't there.	A	40	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pioneer A-209R	150	★★★½☆	Apr 02	Solid-enough for the money but rivals offer significantly more for a similar price.	A	35	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pioneer A-307R	180	★★★½☆	Dec 99	Full-on sound that lacks subtlety and substance and is fatiguing over the long-term.	A	45	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Primare A-10	500	★★★½☆	May 03	Consistently competent but never spectacular - look elsewhere for thrills.	A	50	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Rega Brio	298	★★★★½	Jul 03	Entry-level amp that deserves to be more widely known, especially among turntable users.	A	38	3	m	1	1	No	No	No
✪ Rotel RA-01	250	★★★★★	Jul 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Excellent value and an appealing sound.	A	40	4	m	1	2	Yes	Yes	No
Rotel RA-02	349	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Cracking amp with a powerful, fresh and vibrant sound.	A	40	4	m	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sony TA-FE230	100	★★★★½	Dec 99	Bargain price for an amp that's so well-built, but the performance is restricted.	A	40	3	m	2	1	Yes	Yes	No
Sony TA-FE570	170	★★★★½	Dec 02	Solid value. Smooth, detailed and nicely integrated sound and built to a high standard.	A	40	3	m	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sony TA-FB940R	300	★★★★★	Dec 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000 - plenty of features and natural, attention-grabbing sound.	A	60	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
TEAC A-ID	280	★★★★½	Jul 03	Fine amplifier and makes sense when viewed as a companion for the C-1D CD player.	A	50	5	m	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yamaha AX-396	220	★★★½☆	Jul 00	Has all the right credentials, but it's rather anonymous and unexciting.	A	60	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yamaha AX-596	300	★★★½☆	Dec 00	Puts in a bold performance though it trades some treble detail for a smooth delivery.	A	100	3	m	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes

£501 and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Power	Line level inputs	Phonostage	Tape loops	Speakers	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote
Arcam DiVA A80	600	★★★★½	Oct 03	Incisive, musical presentation and beautifully built but it is just a touch lightweight.	A	65	5	m	1	2	No	Yes	Yes
Arcam DiVA A85	800	★★★★★	Apr 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Remains a front-rank product but competition is hotting up.	A	85	5	Opt	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arcam FMJ A32	1150	★★★★½	Jul 02	Flexible - proves that good sound and masses of features aren't mutually exclusive.	A	100	5	Opt	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Audio Analogue Puccini Remote	595	★★★★★	May 00	Hard to beat for refinement, detail and natural balance. Excellent phono stage.	A	45	5	m/c	1	1	No	No	Yes
Audio Analogue Puccini SE Rem	825	★★★★½	Feb 01	Beguiling and never fails to draw the listener into the music. Give it a serious audition.	A	56	4	m/c	2	2	No	No	Yes
Audio Note Oto	999	★★★★½	Aug 94	Valve amp with a tight, fast sound. Plenty of attack and treble to match its hefty bass.	A	12	4	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Audio Note Oto SE	1199	★★★★½	Jul 02	Partner the Oto SE sensibly and this amp will please like little else at this price.	A	10	4	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Audio Note Soro SE	1699	★★★★½	Dec 02	Blows the valve stereotypes of excess warmth and soggy bass into the weed.	A	20	4	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Audio Note Meishu	2750	★★★★½	Jun 96	A late-night amp that delivers the goods at low levels and excels with acoustic music.	A	8	4	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Audionet SAM V2	2300	★★★★½	Jul 02	Deeply impressive amplifier - it isn't flawless, but its strengths are considerable.	A	110	5	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
✪ AVI Laboratory Series	1399	★★★★★	May 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Digs deeper into recordings than just about any rival.	A	200	5	Opt	1	1	No	No	Yes
Bryston B60	1500	★★★★½	Feb 00	No-nonsense product that simply gets on with the task of reproducing music.	A	60	4	No	1	1	No	Yes	No

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- ★★★★☆ Very good
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- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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These star-rated stands are a stylish addition to any home.

Tower 10 £349.99 + del.

A Hi-Fi Stand which looks as good as this and carries with it a 4 Star rating for style and performance from 'WHAT HI-FI? SOUND & VISION' (Sept 1999), justifies its top position in our "Best Seller" category.

Available in either black or silver, the Tower comprises of a sturdy base with an angled column supporting five 8mm glass shelves, each capable of holding a weight load from 17Kgs to 20kgs. Concealed cable management. Supplied flat packed, (also available as a 4 shelf option).

Tower 12 £399.99 + del.

Yet another one of Triskom's Hi-Fi Separates stand that has been awarded a 4 Star rating from "WHAT HI-FI? SOUND & VISION" (Sept 2003). It's a solid wood construction offered in a choice of fine lacquered finishes, cherry, anthracite or silver.

The Tower features height adjustable tempered glass shelves, cut-outs for cable management, back panel to conceal cables, pre-drilled holes under each foot for spikes. Supplied fully assembled, (also available as a 5 shelf option).

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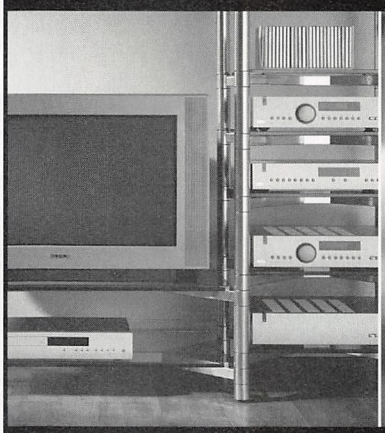

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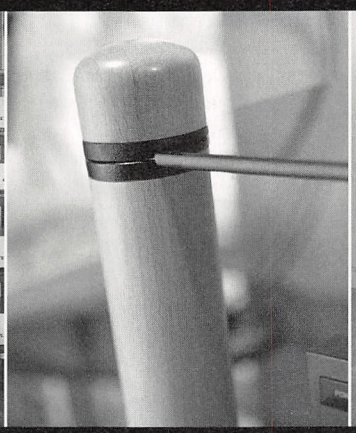

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£501 and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Power	Line level inputs	Phonostage	Tape loops	Speakers	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote
Cary Audio Design cad-300sei	3995	★★★★★	Jan 01	Sounds glorious in a sensitively assembled system but beware the valves as they run hot!	A	15	3	No	0	1	No	Yes	No
Chord Elect. CPM 2600(Int legs)	3600	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Fine introduction to Chord - few rivals can match the power, speed and resolution.	A	120	6	No	2	1	No	No	Yes
Creek A50iR	550	★★★★☆	Jul 03	Very good amp for the money - combines simplicity and performance.	A	50	4	Opt	1	1	No	No	Yes
Creek 5350SE	850	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Good rather than great product - it's definitely worth a listen though.	A	85	4	Opt	2	2	No	Yes	Yes
Cymbol Electronics CA1	799	★★★★☆	Jan 98	A competitive design from a new British name. Sounds fresh, fast and exciting.	A	40	5	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Cyrus 6	600	★★★★★	May 03	Sweet-sounding and digs out every detail - can be upgraded to Cyrus 8 specs later.	A	40	6	No	1	1	No	Yes	Yes
Cyrus 8	800	★★★★★	Apr 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Massive sonic step forward over its predecessor.	A	70	6	No	1	2	No	Yes	Yes
Ear/Yoshino V20	2799	★★★★★	Nov 98	Stunning valve amplifier with top quality sonics. Choose speakers with care.	A	25	5	No	0	1	No	No	No
Eclipse TD A502	875	★★★★★	May 02	Packaged with the TD 512 speakers, this brilliant amp will stun. (Tested at £1175).	A	30	1	No	0	1	No	No	No
Electrocompaniet EC1-3	1099	★★★★★	Jan 00	Offers transparency and naturalness not normally found at this price.	A	75	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Exposure 2010 Titanium Rem	599	★★★★☆	May 03	Exciting, punchy amp that may suit fans of rock or dance music - needs greater finesse.	A	50	5	Opt	1	1	No	No	Yes
Exposure 3010	1000	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Produces a smooth and involving performance with all types of music.	A	100	5	Opt	1	1	No	No	Yes
Lavardin IT	3200	★★★★★	Jul 00	Purist hi-fi at its best: good enough to worry the very best irrespective of cost.	A	40	4	No	0	1	No	No	No
Linn Majik	900	★★★☆☆	Jun 01	Does everything perfectly competently, it just lacks a certain sparkle.	A	33	3	m/c	2	2	No	Yes	Yes
Mark Levinson No 383	5995	★★★★★	Jan 01	A massive slice of Mark Levinson quality in a fabulous one-box package.	A	100	3	No	0	1	No	No	Yes
McIntosh MA6900	4990	★★★★★	Mar 03	Combines features and sonic performance with more aplomb than any rivals we've tested	A	200	6	m	0	2	Yes	Yes	No
Meridian 551	895	★★★☆☆	May 94	Refined but needs a shade more punch. Huge option range but no remote as standard.	A	50	6	Opt	1	1	No	Yes	Yes
Monrio Asty	550	★★★★☆	Jan 98	Appealing sound and stylish looks make the little Asty amp fine value for money.	A	55	5	No	1	1	No	No	No
Moon I-3	1550	★★★★★	Jun 03	This beautiful Moon is a strong contender for 'class leader' status.	A	100	6	No	0	1	No	No	Yes
Myryad MI120	700	★★★★☆	Jan 99	A fine buy for the money (tested at £600), the MI120 amp has much to commend it.	A	60	4	Opt	2	1	No	Yes	Yes
Myryad MI240	1500	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Plenty of power and a crisp delivery - a solidly built all-rounder with lots of appeal.	A	120	6	Opt	2	1	No	Yes	Yes
NAD Silverline S300	1500	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Superb build and finish, but sound quality doesn't quite match this achievement.	A	100	4	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Naim Nait 5	845	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Delivers excitement and involvement in droves. Audition if you like a thrilling listen.	A	30	3	Opt	3	1	No	No	Yes
Plinius 8200	2250	★★★★☆	Jan 01	Solid performer that doesn't lack talent, but just needs a little more honing.	A	175	3	m/c	2	2	No	No	Yes
Primare A-20 MkIII	750	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Will win many friends, thanks to its build, appearance and competent sound.	A	75	4	No	0	1	No	No	Yes
Primare A30.1	1500	★★★★★	Jul 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Superb build, finish and sonic performance.	A	100	6	Opt	2	1	No	No	Yes
Pro-ject Pre Box/Power Box	800	★★★☆☆	Apr 03	Pre/power amp combo - it's not bad, it's more that integrated amp rivals perform better.	A	65	4	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Red Rose Model 5 (Valve)	7999	★★★★★	Jun 03	Demands an audition - produces one of the most seductive sounds we've heard in ages.	A	45	5	Opt	1	1	No	No	No
Rega Mira 3	548	★★★☆☆	May 03	We love the quirky looks but it sounds bland alongside the class leaders.	A	61	4	m	1	1	No	No	No
Roksan Kandy MkIII	550	★★★★★	May 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Impressive combination of power and refinement.	A	120	5	m	1	1	No	Yes	Yes
Roksan Caspian MkII	895	★★★★★	Apr 03	Shrewd updating keeps the Caspian right at the cutting edge in this price sector.	A	70	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Saxon A700	750	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Combines excitement and refinement but it lacks the detail of the best.	A	70	5	Opt	1	1	No	Yes	Yes
Sony TA-FA777ES	1500	★★★★☆	Mar 00	Makes a fine team with the Sony SCD-777ES SACD player.	A	100	3	m/c	3	2	Yes	Yes	No
Sugden A21a	1049	★★★★☆	Apr 03	We love this hot-running machine, matched carefully it'll sing like no other at the price.	A	25	4	m/c	1	1	No	No	No
Sugden Masterclass	3150	★★★★★	Jun 02	Stonking performer and it's excellent combined with the Masterclass CD player.	A	34	4	m	1	1	No	No	Yes
TAG McLaren Audio 60i	549	★★★★★	Feb 02	Stylish and sexy, with great build quality - the TAG sounds belting too.	A	60	3	No	3	1	No	Yes	No
TAG McLaren Audio 60iRv	895	★★★★☆	Nov 98	Worthwhile update to the Audiolab model it is based on, but the price rises too.	A	60	6	No	3	1	No	Yes	Yes
Talk Electronics Cyclone 1.1	650	★★★☆☆	May 03	Gutsy upfront delivery but detail isn't perfect. Test sample had a headphone socket.	A	75	4	Opt	2	1	No	No	Yes
Tube Technology Unisis Sig	2700	★★★★☆	Feb 95	Stupendously attractive valve amp; looks and great sound make it seriously good value.	A	35	4	m	1	1	No	No	No
Tube Technology Synergy PPS	9000	★★★★★	Jan 99	Gorgeous valve amp with all the convenience and power the modern-day user demands.	A	150	5	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Unison Research Unico	775	★★★★★	Jun 03	An absolute peach of an amplifier that will make the competition sit up and take notice.	A	80	4	Opt	2	2	No	No	Yes
Unison Research Unico I	800	★★★☆☆	Jan 02	Decent product, but it's nothing that will make the class leaders lose any sleep.	A	100	4	Opt	1	1	No	No	Yes
Unison Research S2K (Valve)	1295	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Fine build and subtle sound wrapped in a distinctive package. Needs careful matching.	A	15	4	No	1	1	No	No	Yes
Unison Research S.8	3100	★★★★☆	Jul 00	Fabulous with vocals - this amp puts refinement ahead of sonic fireworks.	A	24	4	No	1	2	No	No	Yes

KEY | **Type** Is it a standard integrated amplifier (A), or does it have a built-in tuner, making it a receiver (R)? **Power** The maximum output per channel, quoted in Watts. More power doesn't make a better amp, but it can help! **Line level inputs** For CD players, tuners and the like. **Phono stage** Allows a turntable to be connected. Come in moving coil (c) or moving magnet (m) flavours, or are even switchable between the two. Opt = Optional. **Tape loops** In/out sockets for recording/playback. **Speakers** How many pairs can it drive? **Tone controls** Well, you might need them one day... **Headphone** Has it got a headphone socket?

Preamps

Up to £1000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Line level inputs	Phonostage	Tape loops	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote
Audio Analogue Bellini Remote	595	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Elegant and refined three-box combination - two Donizetti monoblocs with this preamp.	4	m/c	1	No	No	Yes
Audio Note M-Zero	449	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Pair the M-Zero with the P-Zero power amp for a generous helping of valve magic.	4	Opt	1	No	No	No
Audio Note M-One R	599	★★★★★	Oct 00	If you want a musically talented preamp there are few better at this price.	4	Opt	1	No	No	Yes
AVI S2000MP	949	★★★★☆	Oct 96	Combines with the S2000MM monobloc amps to make a fast, dynamic, incisive sound.	6	Opt	2	No	No	Yes
Creek OBH-12	220	★★★★★	Apr 98	Provided you have a simple system this could be the most purist preamplifier solution.	2	No	1	No	No	Yes
Crimson CS-610C	450	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Tested with two CS630C monoblocs - refreshingly bold and insightful presentation.	3	m/c	1	No	No	No
Cyrus Pre aCA 7.5	700	★★★★★	Nov 02	Brilliant. Combined with the SmartPower amp, it produces awesome dynamics.	5	No	2	No	Yes	Yes
Cyrus Pre X	1000	★★★★★	Aug 03	Breathtaking speed and detail resolution from the Pre X/Mono X combo.	6	No	1	No	Yes	Yes
Linn Kolektor	495	★★★★☆	Jul 02	The LK85/Kolektor combo backs up impressive flexibility with solid sound performance.	8	m	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Linn Wakonda	995	★★★★☆	Mar 00	There's much to like about the Wakonda/LK140 combo but it isn't the most transparent.	3	Opt	1	No	Yes	Yes
Moth 30 Series Passive	175	★★★☆☆	Sep 92	Passive, line-level-only preamp. Voices sound natural, but results dependent on cable.	3	No	1	No	No	No
Myryad MP 100	600	★★★★★	Nov 02	The powerhouse MP100/MA240 pair is detailed and dynamic.	4	Opt	2	No	Yes	Yes
NAD C160	430	★★★★★	Sep 00	A class product; gutsy and powerful-sounding and it's well built.	4	m/c	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
NAD Silverline S100	600	★★★★☆	Apr 99	The combination of S100/S200 gives an easygoing sound that packs a hefty punch.	5	Opt	2	No	No	Yes

RATINGS
- Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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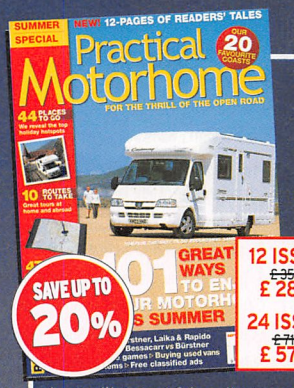

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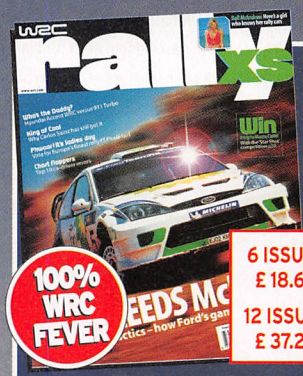

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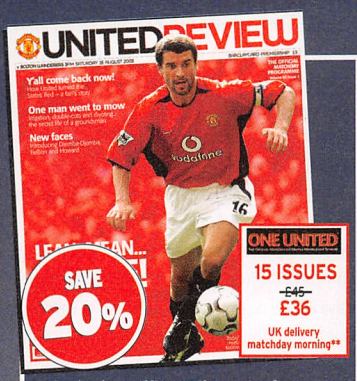

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Preamps

Up to £1000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Line level inputs	Phonostage	Tape loops	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote
Naim NAC 112	660	★★★★☆	Jul 02	The NAC112/NAP150 is still a good combination but is out-performed by others now.	3	Opt	3	No	No	Yes
Parasound Halo P3	750	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Though talented the Halo P3/A23 power combo lacks excitement.	4	m	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quad 99	750	★★★★★	Nov 02	Detail, speed, muscularity and dynamics - 99 pre/power combo has the lot.	3	m/c	1	Yes	No	Yes
Rotel RC1070	395	★★★☆☆	Aug 01	The solid pair of RB1070/RB1080 is best suited to those who place power over subtlety.	3	m	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sugden Headmaster	659	★★★★★	Jun 01	Headphone amp/preamp - a great niche product that sounds brilliant. Was £599.	3	No	0	No	Yes	Yes
TAG McLaren Audio PA10	499	★★★★☆	Feb 99	The PA10 and 60P pre/power are undoubtedly fine products but need careful partnering.	5	m/c	3	No	Yes	No

£1001 and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Line level inputs	Phonostage	Tape loops	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote
Audio Note M2-phono	1699	★★★★☆	May 01	The M2 and the P4 power amp combinations is capable of breathtaking sonic feats.	4	mm	1	No	No	No
Audio Research SP16	2499	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Great sound from the entry-level combo of SP16/VS55 but the finish is poor.	4	mm	1	No	No	Yes
Chord Electronics CPA 2200	3035	★★★★★	Jul 99	With the SPM600 power amp, the Chords are very hard to beat - excel in detail retrieval.	6	No	2	No	No	Yes
Chord Electronics CPA 4000 Enh	7395	★★★★★	May 01	Use with the SPM 1200E amp - they belong right at the forefront of high-end amplification.	6	No	2	No	Yes	Yes
DNM Reson 3C Primus	2100	★★★★★	May 01	Superlative resolution, dynamics and timing - excellent phono stage. Tested with PA3.	5	mc	1	No	No	No
DNM Series 3C Six	4100	★★★★☆	Mar 99	Used with the DNM PA3s these amps merit a serious audition - cosmetics don't impress.	5	mc	1	No	No	No
Ear/Yoshino 864	1529	★★★★★	Awd 01	Gutsy but involving valve-amp, used with 861 power, is something special.	4	m/c	1	No	No	No
GRAAF GM 13.5B II	3995	★★★★★	Jan 00	Partner with GM20 power amp for a truly magical valve combination. Brings music to life.	5	No	1	No	No	No
Linn Kairn	1850	★★★☆☆	Aw 91	Intended for multiroom applications. Confident, astonishingly vivid presentation.	2	m/c	2	No	No	Yes
Mark Levinson No380S	6995	★★★★★	Jan 00	Fabulous build and powerful yet subtle performance.	5	No	2	No	No	Yes
Meridian 502	1470	★★★★☆	Jul 97	Sophisticated, and muscular, the 502/505s combination is astonishingly flexible.	7	Opt	2	No	No	Yes
Moon P-3	2650	★★★★☆	Awd 01	Beautifully built, the P-3/W-3 combination puts listenability before attack.	7	No	1	No	No	Yes
Naim NAC 202	1375	★★★★★	Jul 03	Naim's pairing of this preamp with the NAP200 power amp is tempting indeed.	6	Opt	3	No	No	Yes
✪ Primare Pre30	1200	★★★★★	Jan 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. With the A30.2 it has a powerful and warm, generous sound.	3	No	1	No	No	Yes
Roksan ROK L2.5	1250	★★★★★	Nov 95	Combine with the equally seductive ROK-S1.5 power amp for a sound as good as it looks.	4	No	1	No	No	No
TAG McLaren Audio DPA32R-dab	1695	★★★★★	Nov 00	Combined preamp and DAC, use with the CDT20R T2I for an extremely musical delivery.	6	No	1	No	No	Yes

KEY | **Line level inputs** For CD players, tuners and the like. **Phono stage** Allows a turntable to be connected. Come in moving coil (c) or moving magnet (m) flavours, or are even switchable between the two. Opt = Optional **Tape loops** In/out sockets for recording/playback. **Tone controls** Well, you might need them one day... **Headphone** Has it got a headphone socket?

Power amplifiers

Up to £800

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Power	Speakers	Bridgeable	Connections
Arcam DiVA P85	530	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Combine with the A85 integrated for a very superior amplifier indeed.	S	85	2	No	P
✪ Audio Analogue Donizetti Mono	495	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Elegant and refined three-box combination - 2 x this monobloc plus the Bellini preamp.	M	100	2	No	P
Audio Note P-Zero	699	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Pair the P-Zero with the M-Zero preamp for a generous helping of valve magic.	M	8	1	No	P
Cyrus SmartPower	600	★★★★★	Nov 02	Brilliant, combined with the aCA7.5 preamp, it produces awesome dynamics.	S	60	1	Yes	P
Exposure 2010 Titanium	499	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Significant upgrade for the 2010 integrated amp - makes an impressive combination.	S	60	1	Yes	P
Linn LK85	495	★★★★☆	Jul 02	The LK85/Kolektor combo backs up impressive flexibility with solid sound performance.	S	85	1	No	P
Linn LK140	800	★★★★☆	Mar 00	There's much to like about the Wakonda/LK140, but it isn't the most transparent around.	S	95	1	No	P
Marantz SM-17	700	★★★★☆	May 03	Two SM-17s and the PS-17 home cinema amp make an exciting movie and music package.	S	60	2	Yes	P
Moth 30 Series Power	275	★★★☆☆	Sep 92	Skinny monobloc but capable of open, informative sound at all frequencies.	M	30	1	No	P
Myryad MA120	500	★★★★☆	Oct 99	British, stylish and a crowd-pleasing sound, the MA120/MP100 combo is well-judged.	S	60	1	No	P
NAD C270	450	★★★★★	Nov 01	Adding the C270 to the superb C370 amp gives more punch and greater focus.	S	120	2	Yes	P
Naim NAP 150	795	★★★★☆	Jul 02	The NAC112/NAP150 is still a good combination but is out-performed by others now.	S	50	1	No	D
Parasound Halo A23	750	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Though talented the Halo P3/A23 power combo lacks excitement.	S	125	1	Yes	P/X
Quad 99 Stereo	550	★★★★★	Nov 02	Detail, speed, muscularity and dynamics - 99 pre/power combo has the lot.	S	85	1	No	P
Roksan Caspian	645	★★★★★	Dec 98	Good, no-nonsense amp that will be as happy to be used outside a Roksan system as in.	S	70	1	No	P

£801 and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Power	Speakers	Bridgeable	Connections
Arcam FMJ P7	2500	★★★★★	May 03	The P7 sounds huge and paired with the AV8 processor the combo is simply stunning.	7	150x7	4	No	P
Audio Note P4 Monobloc x 2	4250	★★★★☆	May 01	The M2 and the P4 power amp combination is capable of breathtaking sonic feats.	M	18	1	No	P
AVI S2000MM	1399	★★★★☆	Oct 96	Big money but use these amps with the S2000MP preamp for a big stonky sound.	S	150	1	No	P
Cary Audio Design CAD-805C	8995	★★★★★	Sep 99	Amazing power amp with an awe-inspiring ability to fill a room with musicians.	M	50	1	No	P/X
Chord Electronics SPM 600	2260	★★★★★	Jul 99	Used with the CPA 2200 preamp, the Chords are hard to beat - excel in detail retrieval.	S	130	2	No	P/X
Chord Electronics SPM 1200E	5600	★★★★★	May 01	The CPA 4000 preamp and this 1200E belong at the forefront of high-end amplification.	S	350	2	No	P/X
Crimson CS-630C (x2)	875	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Tested with the CS610C preamp - refreshingly bold and insightful presentation.	M	100	1	No	P
Cyrus Mono X	1200	★★★★★	Aug 03	Breathtaking speed and detail resolution from the Pre X/Mono X combo.	M	150	1	No	P/X
Cyrus SmartPower(x3)	1800	★★★☆☆	May 03	Makes an affordable 5.1 channel system with the AV8 processor but it lacks oomph.	S	60	1	Yes	P
DNM PA3	1900	★★★★★	May 01	Superlative resolution, dynamics and timing. Tested with the Reson 3C Primus preamp.	S	50	1	No	D
DNM PA3S	2900	★★★★☆	Mar 99	Used with the DNM 3C six, merits a serious audition, but cosmetics don't impress.	S	23	1	No	D
Ear/Yoshino 861	3799	★★★★★	Awd 01	Gutsy but involving valve-amp; used with 864 preamp, it's something special.	S	32	1	Yes	P/X
GRAAF GM 20	3300	★★★★★	Jan 00	Partner with 13. 5BII preamp for a truly magical valve combination. Brings music to life.	S	25	1	Yes	P/X
Krell FPB-400CX	11997	★★★★★	Jan 03	Paired with the CD/preamp this FPB 400cx has sky-high ability to match its stellar price.	S	400	1	No	X
Meridian 505 (Mono)	885	★★★★☆	Jul 97	Clean and massively powerful, take a long listen and hear what it does for you.	M	160	1	No	P/X
Meridian 557	1625	★★★★★	Mar 99	An excellent power amp that manages to combine high power with sonic subtlety.	S	200	1	Yes	P/X
Moon W-3	3350	★★★★☆	Awd 01	Beautifully built, the P-3/W-3 combination puts listenability before attack.	S	120	1	Yes	P/X
Myryad MA240	1000	★★★★★	Nov 02	The powerhouse MP100/MA240 pair is detailed and dynamic.	S	120	1	Yes	P/X

RATINGS
✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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Power amplifiers

£801 and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Power	Speakers	Bridgeable	Connections
Myryad MA360	1300	★★★★★	Oct 00	Well-thought-out solution - we used with MA240 amp and MDP500 processor.	3	120x3	2	No	P
Myryad MA500	1700	★★★★½	May 03	Solid buy with quality processing from the MDP500. We'd like them to rip a little bit more.	5	100x5	2	No	P
NAD Silverline S200	1400	★★★★½	Apr 99	The combination of S100/S200 gives an easygoing sound that packs a hefty punch.	S	200	1	Yes	P/X
Naim NAP 200	1345	★★★★★	Jul 03	Naim's pairing of this power amp with the NAC202 preamp is tempting indeed.	S	70	1	No	X
Primare A30.2	1200	★★★★★	Jan 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. With the Pre30 has a powerful and warm, generous sound.	S	120	2	Yes	P/X
Primare A30.5 MkII	1700	★★★★½	May 03	Good all-rounder with the SP31.7 processor but it lacks sheer brute force.	5	120x5	3	No	P
Quad 909	900	★★★★★	Nov 02	A compact powerhouse that's one of those rare fit-and-forget components.	S	140	1	No	P
Roksan Caspian (four-channel)	950	★★★★½	Dec 99	Superb, Roksan has proved that a multichannel amp can deliver the musical goods.	4	80x4	2	No	P
Roksan ROK S1.5	1500	★★★★★	Nov 95	Use with the equally seductive ROK-L2.5 preamp for sound on a par with their looks.	S	70	1	No	P
Rotel RB1080 (THX)	845	★★★½☆	Aug 01	The solid pair of RB1070/RB1080 is best suited to those who place power over subtlety.	S	200	1	No	P/X
Rotel RMB1075 (THX)	845	★★★★★	Feb 03	Stunning combined with the RSP1066 processor. Impressive in stereo and with movies.	5	120x5	2	No	P
Rotel RB-1090	1745	★★★★½	Jul 00	Goes as loud as anyone could want, but it's not the most subtle sound. (tested at £1650).	S	380	2	No	P/X
TAG McLaren Audio 100x5R:10	4720	★★★★★	May 03	Bombproof build and great performance combined with the AV30R	10	80x10	5	No	P

KEY | **Type** M = Mono, S = Stereo. Power The maximum output per channel, quoted in Watts. More power doesn't make a better amp, but it can help! **Speakers** How many pairs can it drive? **Bridgeable** Some stereo power amplifiers can be converted into more powerful mono amps, to which you can add a second 'bridged' amp for a more powerful performance. Typically the power increase is around 3x, so a 60W per channel stereo amplifier becomes a 180W mono model. Only amps specifically designed for bridging can be used like this – check with a dealer if in doubt .

Phono & headphone amps

Up to £900

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Phono stage	Loading	Equalisation
Creek OBH-21SE	250	★★★★★	May 03	Fine niche product that sounds gorgeous with an appropriately talented source.	H	-	-	-
EarMax Pro Headphone Amp	425	★★★★★	Jun 99	They don't come much cuter than this valve-powered headphone amp - lust at first listen.	H	-	-	-
Graham Slee Gram Amp 1	85	★★★★★	Apr 01	Superbly fluid and open presentation - we can't imagine anyone not liking this.	P	m	F	R
Graham Slee Gram Amp 2	119	★★★★★	Jun 02	Great-value phono stage that will make a considerable upgrade from most in-built models.	P	m	F	R
Lektropacks BT926	30	★★★★½	Apr 01	Retains musical emotion, but is less impressive with low frequency punch.	P	m	F	R
Linn Linto	900	★★★★½	Sep 97	Vinyl fans will love this phono stage - breathes new life into old records.	P	m/c	S	R
NAD PP-1	40	★★★★½	Apr 01	Little phono stage that will probably better most found in amps selling below £300.	P	m	F	R
NAD PP2	50	★★★★½	Aug 03	Solid, likeable performer that makes sense in budget systems.	P	m/c	F	R
Naim Headline (exc pow supply)	275	★★★★½	Jul 98	An expensive but worthwhile headphone amplifier. Ideal partner for Naim amps.	H	-	-	-
Pro-ject Phono Box	40	★★★★★	Apr 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Brings out the best in sub-£300 turntables.	P	m/c	F	R
Pro-ject Phono Box SE	100	★★★★★	Aug 02	Fine development of the original, ideally suited to use with a wide variety of turntables.	P	m/c	S	R
QED Discsaver	35	★★★½☆	Jul 97	Good-priced phono stage if you're stuck without a turntable input, but not as an upgrade.	P	m	F	R
Roksan Caspian	650	★★★★½	Awd 01	Fine phonostage that performs well on all counts, but has cheaper rivals to fight off.	P	m/c	S	R
Sonneteer Sedley	499	★★★★★	Jun 99	Sparkling treble, open midband and taut bass make this phono stage a real star.	P	m/c	S	R
Trichord Dino	299	★★★★★	Jun 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. A slice of high-end performance at a very competitive price.	P	m/c	S	R

KEY | **Type** P = Phono amp, H = Headphone amp. **Phono stage** Comes in moving coil (c) or moving magnet (m) flavours, or is even switchable between the two. **Loading** for cartridges is either (S) switchable by user to suite various cartridge impedances or (F) factory set for just one, typically 47KOhms for moving magnet designs, 60ohms for moving coil. **Equalization** (R) the RIAA curve is the original standard but the later (I) IECC curve has the bass rolled off earlier.

Speakers

Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power ratings	Biwirable	Height width depth	Finishes
AAD S-1	400	★★★☆☆	Awd 03	Good-looking, but only average-performing pair of speakers.	sb	87	8	200	No	25.20.27	Ch
Acoustic Energy Aegis Compact	110	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Compact in name and style, but a lack of dynamics means they can lack life.	st	88	6	100	No	26.15.14	2
Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo One	180	★★★★★	Sep 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Classy performance, especially if you like your music loud.	st	89	8	120	Yes	36.19.23	3

It's a Hat Trick!

Tuners
VideoLogic DRX-601ES

DRX-702ES

DAB DigitalAudioBroadcasting digital radio

For your DAB information pack please call 01923 277585

Find your nearest dealer at www.pure-digital.com or call 01923 277488

PURE DIGITAL

RATINGS
Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Sevenoaks
SOUND & VISION

Sevenoaks Sound & Vision stocks a wide range of Hi-Fi separates, DVD players, amplifiers, speakers, plasma screens, LCD televisions and projection systems from all the leading manufacturers.

From starter systems to custom designed multi-room and home cinema installations, our friendly staff are available in all outlets to advise, demonstrate and guide you through the home entertainment jungle. If you're interested in home entertainment and want to avoid the confusion, contact your local Sevenoaks Sound & Vision outlet and **experience more.**

0% interest free option* is available on most products.

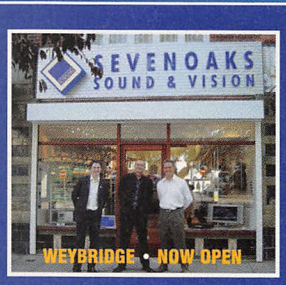
*Written details on request. Licensed credit brokers. Minimum balance £400. Subject to status.

CUSTOM INSTALLATION

Are you looking to neatly and seamlessly integrate a Home Cinema or Hi-Fi System into your home? Our Custom Installation experts are fully trained in all areas

and provide a prompt, reliable and professional service. Whether you're looking for lighting control systems, a dedicated home cinema installation with a retractable screen and built-in speakers or an integrated control system, Sevenoaks Sound & Vision has the solution.

NEW OUTLETS



NOW OPEN WEYBRIDGE & STAINES

The WEYBRIDGE store at **43 Church Street, The Quadrant,** is now open. To contact the store call **01932 828525.**

The STAINES store, located at **4 Thames Street,** is due to open on 18th October. Please call **01784 460777** to confirm before travelling or visit our website for more information

• OPENING SOON

Subject to legal completion, we will be opening a new store in **Ealing** (North London).

www.sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk

Product NEWS

PIONEER TAKES PLASMA TO ANOTHER LEVEL WITH HIGH DEFINITION PROCESSING

The PDP-434HDE is the new PureVision plasma television from Pioneer.

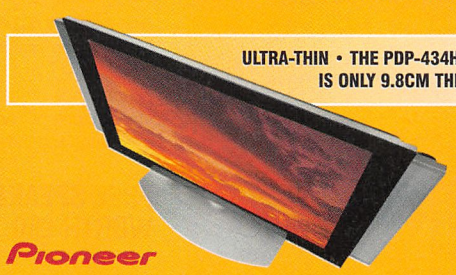
Featuring Pioneer's new Pure Drive processing which Pioneer claim, 'provides high-definition images from any source' and the home gallery feature, which allows you to insert a memory card and view JPEG stills.

Other key features include the Pure Colour Filter II and Super Clear Drive, for better colour reproduction and to make blacks look darker, plus MPEG noise reduction.

Connections include HDMI and DVI sockets.

The advanced PDP-R04E multimedia receiver extends the connectivity and viewing options to include analogue TV programme reception, digital noise reduction, subwoofer output, headphone socket and newly developed Teletext.

PDP-434HDE £4199.95 (Excluding Stand)



Pioneer

BEDFORD
BIRMINGHAM
BRIGHTON
BRISTOL
BROMLEY
CAMBRIDGE
CARDIFF
CHELSEA
CHELTENHAM
CRAWLEY
CROYDON
EDINBURGH
EPSOM
EXETER
GLASGOW
GUILDFORD
HOLBORN
HULL
IPSWICH
KINGSTON
LEICESTER
LEEDS
LINCOLN
LIVERPOOL
MAIDSTONE
MANCHESTER
NEWCASTLE
NORWICH
NOTTINGHAM
OXFORD
PETERBOROUGH
PLYMOUTH
POOLE
PRESTON
READING
SEVENOAKS
SHEFFIELD
SOLIHULL
SOUTHAMPTON
SOUTHGATE
STAINES **NEW**
SWANSEA
SWINDON
SWISS COTTAGE
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
WATFORD
WEYBRIDGE **NEW**
WITHAM (ESSEX)
WOLVERHAMPTON

PLEASE SEE PAGE 13 FOR ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER DETAILS

Sevenoaks
SOUND & VISION

HI-FI SEPARATES

PRO-JECT 1 XPRESSION
TURNTABLE (BLACK) **£209.95**

"Compared with a £200 CD player this deck sounds remarkable: dig out your vinyl and give the Xpression a spin."

Best Buy 2003

FREE ORTOFON CARTRIDGE WITH SELECTED TURNTABLES
*PLEASE ASK IN-STORE FOR DETAILS

Best Buy 2003

MICHELL GYRO SE
TURNTABLE / RB300 TONEARM
£1049.95

ARCAM CD73T CD PLAYER £399.95

Product of the year 2003

FREE INTERCONNECT CABLE* WORTH £60
WHEN ANY ARCAM DIVA CD & AMPLIFIER PURCHASED TOGETHER

Best Buy 2003

ROTEL
RCD-02 CD PLAYER
£379.95

RA-01 AMPLIFIER (PICTURED)
£249.95

Best Buy 2002 AMPLIFIERS £251-£500

RA-02 AMPLIFIER
£349.95

FREE INTERCONNECT CABLE* WORTH £60
WHEN ANY ROTEL CD & AMPLIFIER PURCHASED TOGETHER

B&W BOWERS & WILKINS
DM602 S3 SPEAKERS
£299.95

The B&W 600 Series has become synonymous with superb value performance in both 2-channel stereo and home cinema. Now, Series 3 continues that tradition, while raising the standards of sound quality at this level by drawing on their vast experience in the high-end sector.

"But the B&W 602 S3 are our winners... No rival can match the wide ranging dynamics or low frequency performance of these not so compact standmounters. Add all-round sonic excellence and the choice is easy."

Best Buy 2002 SPEAKERS £201-£350

FREE SPEAKER CABLE* WORTH £50
WITH ANY B&W SPEAKERS OVER £280

experience more

experience more

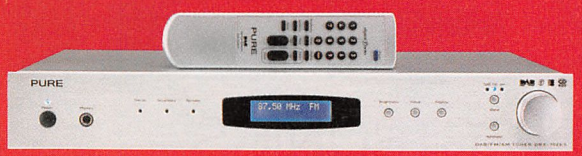
SOUND VISION SEVENOAKS

MARANTZ

PM7200 AMPLIFIER

£329.95 (BLACK)

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS



PURE DIGITAL

DRX-702ES ANALOGUE/DAB TUNER **£329.95**

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

MUSICAL FIDELITY A3.2

A3.2 CD PLAYER **£999.95**

A3.2 AMPLIFIER **£979.95**

FREE INTERCONNECT CABLE* WORTH £100
WHEN ANY MF CD & AMPLIFIER PURCHASED TOGETHER

PRICING POLICY

We always try to ensure our prices are highly competitive.

In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention.

0% FINANCE OPTION*

Spread the cost of buying.

0% finance option is available on the vast majority of products we stock.

*Written details on request. Licensed credit brokers. Minimum balance £400. Subject to status.

Please Note:
Some products may not be available at all outlets.
Please call before travelling.*Not in conjunction with any other offer.
Advertisement valid until at least 19/11/03, E&OE.

QUAD

99 CD-P CD PLAYER/PRE

£999.95

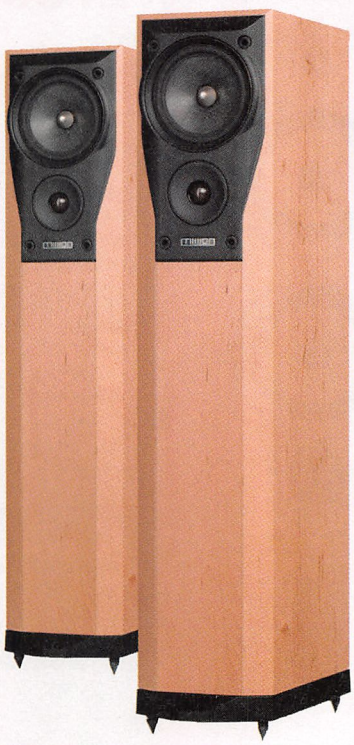
99 POWER AMPLIFIER

£549.95

11L SPEAKERS

£379.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS



MISSION

782 SE SPEAKERS

£899.95

780 SE SPEAKERS

£349.95

◀ 782 SE

"Well, with the exception of the alderwood-veneer finish, these floorstanders look identical to the standard model, although there's a new tweeter and crossover design. One of the advantages of the three-way configuration is that each driver deals with only a narrow section of the frequency range, and the designers optimise each unit to perform its respective task. Mission's engineers have excelled in this area: these elegant floorstanders sound beautifully balanced and few rivals under £1000 can match their wonderful levels of clarity. The 'special edition' tag is overused but these talented floorstanders are bona fide sonic stars."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION June 03 ★★★★★

780 SE

"The revamped Mission 780s are hugely enjoyable: anyone with up to £400 to spend should consider these standmounters. Mission's clever move has paid off."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Feb 03 ★★★★★

FREE SPEAKER CABLE* WORTH £50

WITH ANY MISSION SPEAKERS OVER £280

Sevenoaks
SOUND & VISION

ROKSAN KANDY ▸
KD-1 MKIII CD PLAYER
£594.95

KA-1 MKIII AMPLIFIER
£594.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

KA-1 MKIII AMPLIFIER "Roksan has done an impressive job with the Kandy MKIII, creating a powerful and musical amplifier that's a step up from previous models."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION July 03 ★★★★★

KD-1 MKIII CD PLAYER "Last year we said the Kandy CD player was very impressive but could be better - and now it is. The MkIII model is an exceptional-sounding all-rounder."

FREE INTERCONNECT CABLE* WORTH £60
WHEN ROKSAN KANDY CD & AMPLIFIER PURCHASED TOGETHER

WHARFEDALE PACIFIC
EVOLUTION 30 SPEAKERS
£649.95

"Evolution? This is more like a revolution: Wharfedale's new range is more than an upgrade of its Pacific series.

Listen to the Evolution 30s and the sonic changes leap out at you. Sitting on their chunky spikes and situated in free space, the speakers sound wonderful: low frequencies delve deep and delivery is punchy and fast...

You'll have gathered by now we love the Evolution 30s. They're beautifully made and great all-rounders."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Mar 03 ★★★★★

CYRUS ELECTRONICS

6 CD PLAYER
£599.95
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

8 AMPLIFIER
£799.95 (BELOW)

8 CD PLAYER
£999.95
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

PRE X PRE
£999.95

MONO X POWER
£1199.95 (EACH)

Cyrus has been developing high performance hi-fi systems for nearly 20 years. Today their upgradeable, modular product range includes multi-room systems, home cinema and some of the world's finest hi-fi systems. Cyrus products are hand finished, half size die-cast enclosures and include a hidden digital command system that allows simple operation of any size system.

The new product range includes the 6 and 8 amplifiers and the stunning new high performance, CD players, the CD6 & CD8. Other models include the Pre X and Mono X Pre/Power combination and a new disc player, DVD8, featuring specially tuned video and audio circuitry.

CYRUS 8 AMPLIFIER
"The 8 is a large step forward from older generations of Cyrus amplifiers, and takes the company back into the leading pack in the sub-£1000 integrated amp sector... The Cyrus 8 is a must-audition product."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

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experience more
experience more

SOUND VISION SEVENOAKS

LINN CLASSIK ▼

MUSIC SYSTEM (EX SPEAKERS)

£849.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Awards 2001 BEST BUY
Systems Best Buy £1000 plus

"The Classik sounds simply marvellous. Boasting fine impact and drive, it retains its grip even as it thumps out rock and dance tracks. Ask it to play quiet

acoustic music and its smooth, liquid presentation impresses still further. The Classik offers the performance you'd expect from high quality separates in one lovely package - this is a very superior product."

YAMAHA CDR-HD1300

CD-RW/HD RECORDER

£529.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

SONY RCD-W3

CD-RW RECORDER

£199.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

DENON DM31 SYSTEM ▶

UD-M31 CD RECEIVER

£229.95

SC-M51 SPEAKERS

£69.95

FREE
BEYER DT231 GALACTIC HEADPHONES* WORTH £44.95
WHEN YOU PURCHASE A D-M31 SYSTEM

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

MONITOR AUDIO BRONZE

BRONZE B2 SPEAKERS

£199.95

"...Their overall performance is faultless... The Bronze B2s sound like pure gold: at £200 they offer superb value for money... Forget "must-listen" - the B2s are 'please-listen' products."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

"The D-M30 was exemplary, as its three What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision Awards clearly show. The D-M31 is even better, making it phenomenal value for money."

OPTIONAL RECORDERS: DMD-M31 MINIDISC RECORDER • DRR-M31 CASSETTE DECK

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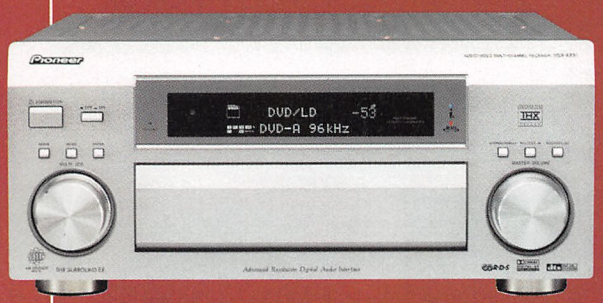
SOUND & VISION

HOME CINEMA



PIONEER

DV565A UNIVERSAL DVD PLAYER

R2 £199.95 MULTI REGION £229.95

A/V RECEIVERS

VSX-D812 AV RECEIVER

£349.95

VSX-AX3i AV RECEIVER

£729.95

VSX-AX5i AV RECEIVER

£1049.95

Please Note:
Some products may not be available at all outlets.
Please call before travelling.*Not in conjunction with any other offer.
Advertisement valid until at least 19/11/03, E&OE.

TOSHIBA SD330E DVD PLAYER

R2 £99.95
MULTI REGION £119.95

"We started off mourning the loss of the SD-220E, but on this evidence it won't be missed - its successor is the new budget DVD player that the other big names and the supermarket specials have to beat."

HARMAN/KARDON

DVD25 DVD PLAYER £349.95

AVR8500 A/V RECEIVER £1799.95

DVD25 "This progressive scan-capable deck incorporates a high-quality chipset which produces a scintilating subjective performance." WHAT VIDEO • JULY 2003

FREE DIGITAL CABLE* WORTH £50
WITH ANY HARMAN/KARDON A/V RECEIVER

YAMAHA DSP-AX640SE

A/V AMPLIFIER £379.95

"The latest range of AV amps from Yamaha - the entry-level RX-V440 and step-up V640 - have all received rave reviews recently [and with the DSP-AX640SE] Yamaha has added another star to its cast of affordable home cinema amps."

experience more

experience more

SOUND VISION SEVENOAKS

KEF KHT2005.2 ▸
SPEAKER PACKAGE
£799.95

"KEF has done it. This is the new best system in its class... Put simply, the KEF system plays anything well - it has accurate timing and midrange clarity, plus a smooth, expansive and detailed top-end with bags of bite. The integration between the sub-woofer and satellites is as good as we've heard, which helps convince you that you're listening to a much larger speaker, whether it's music or crashing movie action... The KHT2005.2 is the new top surround dog. KEF should be very proud."

DENON AVR2803
AV RECEIVER
£599.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

SANYO PLV-Z1
LCD PROJECTOR **£1099.95**

"...And the image? It's surprisingly good: in fact, the best we've seen from an LCD in this price category. There's genuine depth of field and contrast to the image, due in part to the Sanyo's decent black level... Things improve still more if you connect a progressive-scan source. With *Goldmember* in the DVD tray, the Sanyo relays the complex colours of Austin Powers' pad with ease, and handles the movements of the helicopter gunship in the opening scene superbly.

Add a choice of silver/blue or silver/grey and that modest price tag, and you're looking at an affordable projector that - for once - actually delivers on its promise. At £1500, there's no doubt that the Sanyo is something of a steal."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Feb 03 ★★★★★

DENON DVD2900
UNIVERSAL DVD PLAYER
R2 £749.95 MULTI REGION £799.95

"The DVD2900 is a beautifully made player with an excellent picture; it also produces highly effective multichannel surround music. In this class that's enough to secure victory, because that's what you buy a DVD player like this for. All hail, then, to the new king."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

Sevenoaks
SOUND & VISION

SAVE £1000

THEMESCENE H56
DLP PROJECTOR £2499.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

"Brilliant in every sense, the H56 is a great buy. It's well equipped, small, and it delivers top pictures... The H56 totes a latest-generation DLP chipset and a progressive-scan board from Silicon-Images - the powerful Si504 unit found in many top-end DVD players. The combination is deadly, helping the little H56 to produce a richly textured, colourful picture that's both smooth and easy on the eye... This is a genuinely impressive buy."

PICTURE BY DLP A TEXAS INSTRUMENTS TECHNOLOGY

3 YEAR^ HOT SWAP WARRANTY

^3 Year Hot Swap Warranty - Available on all ThemeScene and Optoma Projectors - Please ask in-store for details.

PANASONIC DMR-E50
DVD-RAM/DVD-R DVD RECORDER
£319.95

"Panasonic's DMR-E50 is one of the best-value DVD recorders around, deserving each and every one of its five stars."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

ROTEL RSP1066 & RMB1075
A/V PRE/POWER AMPLIFIER £1799.95

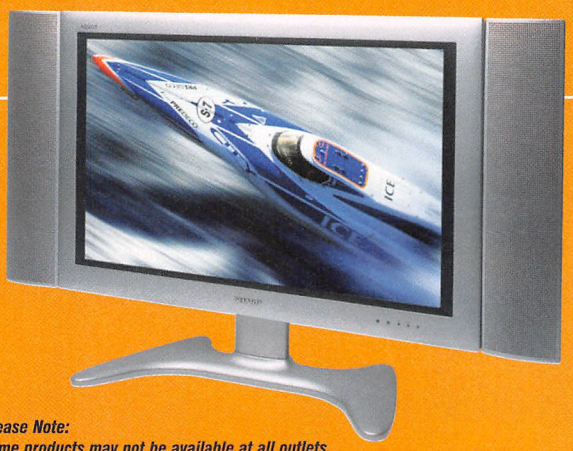
"Here we have what is - by some margin - the least-expensive combination in this test, although you wouldn't guess the price to look at the duo. Not only does the Rotel two-box look all the money, it's well equipped, delivers plenty of power... But there's no sign whatsoever of the bargain price in the performance - whether with music in stereo, surround soundtracks or SACDs, the Rotel sounds powerful, refined and exciting... The RSP1066/RMB1075 is an absolute steal: it may be outperformed by some pricier rivals in the *Supertest*, but the margin isn't as great as you might expect."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION SUPERTEST WINNER

SHARP AQUOS
LC-30HV4E LCD TELEVISION
£2799.95

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO

"This is one of the best LCD TVs money can buy. Sharp has built on the qualities of its predecessor and knocked nearly two grand off the price... An awesome LCD TV which warrants an audition." WHAT VIDEO • JULY 2003



REL Q150 MKII
SUBWOOFER (BRITTEX BLACK)
£499.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

"REL ups the low-end ante with this sensible but effective revamp [with] even more weight, drive and muscularity than its double Award-winning predecessor."

MJ ACOUSTICS
REFERENCE 100 SUBWOOFER
£349.95 (BLACK)

"You get a high level of detail and the kind of impact most sub-£1000 floorstanders would struggle to match. The verdict's simple:buy with confidence."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Oct 03 ★★★★★

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

Please Note:
Some products may not be available at all outlets.
Please call before travelling.*Not in conjunction with any other offer.
Advertisement valid until at least 19/11/03, E&OE.

experience more

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SOUND VISION SEVENOAKS

ARCAM FMJ ▸

AV8 AV PRE/PROCESSOR
P7 A/V POWER AMPLIFIER

£5499.95

Arcam has been at the forefront of designing home cinema since 1996 and has established an international reputation for audio excellence. This this highly specified combination has been described as "Arcam's best ever product to date."

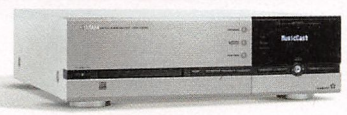
The ultra-flexible AV8 Pre-amp Processor is among the first processors to have THX Ultra II certification for music and movie post processing. According to Arcam, the partnering P7 Power Amplifier is a 'true audiophile powerhouse' delivering over a kilowatt of power from seven channels each THX-Ultra rated at 150 watts.

The AV8/P7 combination has been awarded 'Editor's Choice' by Hi-Fi Choice magazine - being described as "A fantastic achievement - an AV processor par excellence." - while What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision (★★★★★ May 2003) concludes, "Simply, the Arcam is stunning."

MUSIC ALL AROUND THE HOME

Introducing YAMAHA'S Innovative MusicCAST Wireless System

MCX-1000 'DIGITAL SERVER' ▸



Are you interested in having music in every room in your house without the wires normally associated with a multi-room system? Then you will be delighted with Yamaha's MusicCAST - a client/server system that can distribute multisource audio wirelessly around your home.

Featuring an 80GB hard-disk, the MusicCAST can store up to 1000 hours of music in MP3 format or 100 hours of CD quality PCM stereo. Copying music to the hard-disk takes around 3 minutes per CD. Once recorded music can be played back in PCM quality from the central server and one client unit in another room, and in MP3 quality to an additional six clients. The whole system can send different music to each of the clients and allows you to create playlists for different rooms.

MCX-A10 'CLIENT' ▸

£ PRICING POLICY

We always try to ensure our prices are highly competitive. In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention.

0% FINANCE OPTION*

Spread the cost of buying. 0% finance option is available on the vast majority of products we stock.

*Written details on request. Licensed credit brokers. Minimum balance £400. Subject to status.

SHARP XV-Z91E

DLP PROJECTOR

£2099.95

"A very tempting projector given the price. If you want a simple-to-use projector, it's well worth auditioning."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Oct 03 ★★★★★

KEF Q7AV

A/V SPEAKER PACKAGE

£2199.95

"And so to KEF's Q7 AV. It's not flawless, but it gets closer to the ideal compromise between the needs of multichannel music and movies. The key is those Q2ds surrounds, which wrap sounds around you like the best home cinema-orientated rears, but which also have the weight and musicality to play surround music properly (if not quite as well as a dedicated hi-fi speaker). Add this all-round ability to appealing style and a decent price and you have a winner."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003

Sevenoaks
SOUND & VISION

FUJITSU P42 HHA10
42" PLASMA SCREEN £3699.95

Fujitsu General Limited is proud to present its new 42" plasma display monitor, the P42 HHA10, which features a brand new cabinet design to perfectly match the home theatre environment.

Equipped with Fujitsu's exclusive AVM (Advanced Video Movement) Full Digital Video Processor to achieve the highest picture quality. The ALIS method used creates incredible brightness and high definition. Combining the "Fine Mode" feature, which enables you to create cinema quality pictures, with the built-in D-class, 1-bit, delta-sigma spread spectrum digital audio amplifier, you can experience the image and sound quality of a movie theatre in your own home.

INCLUDES 2 YEAR, ON-SITE, 'SWAP-OUT' WARRANTY
ASK IN-STORE FOR DETAILS

ONKYO TX-NR900E
A/V RECEIVER £1499.95

FREE DIGITAL CABLE* WORTH £50
WITH ANY ONKYO A/V RECEIVER

"A great idea - and well executed; the TX-NR900E is the first of what we suspect will be many 'convergence' receivers.
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ Aug 03

M&K 850/CS-35/V850
A/V SPEAKER PACKAGE
£3899.95

"The M&K kit earns a must-hear recommendation: it's full of new ideas, and remarkably, they work."
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION July 03 ★★★★★

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

SONY KE-32TS2
32" PLASMA TELEVISION £2899.95

"The Sony KE-32TS2 is a highly stylish screen that sits - aptly - upon a pedestal. While most plasma TVs rely on separate tuner boxes, Sony has managed to integrate all this circuitry into slimline chasis that supports the screen...

This is an excellent plasma TV: beautifully styled and completely integrated. It offers peerless picture quality at a price that's not too extreme."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

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SOUND VISION SEVENOAKS

TEAC LEGACY
700/LS-L800 5.1 AV SYSTEM
£949.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

"The Legacy 700 is based around two equal-sized components, the DR-L700P stereo DVD receiver and A-L700P three-channel power amp - giving five channels in total. Speakers are an option... However, it's likely that most will opt for TEAC's own LS-L800 5.1 system, a stunning all-aluminium affair comprising floorstanding tower-type front speakers, coupled with a matching centre, surrounds and active sub-woofer. And the performance more than matches the style. The TEAC has composure, finesse, ample bass, the lot... This is a winning system in every sense and comes highly recommended."

SAVE £1000
"The SIM2's picture can only be described as breathtaking."

SIM2 HT300 PLUS
DLP PROJECTOR
£7999.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2002 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS PLASMAS/PROJECTORS £6001+

NEW DOMINO 20 by SIM2
£3749.95

The **DOMINO** is SIM2's new DLP projector, replacing both the HT200 & HT200DMF. According to SIM2, the DOMINO "delivers an outstanding image quality and has many distinguished features: blacks & whites are exceptional on and off screen, creating an impressive depth of vision; a true cinema experience can be created with the addition of a long throw lens, allowing the projector to be positioned behind the viewer - equally, the projector is so versatile, it can be placed on a bookshelf or installed on the ceiling opposite the screen; an exceptionally quiet mechanical design has been developed by SIM2 for extremely low acoustic noise."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

B&W ASW750
ACTIVE SUBWOOFER
£1199.95

"This is the priciest sub in this test and it sounds it: a 1kw internal amplifier suggests muscle, and this is confirmed once the ASW750 is heard in full flow... The explosion scene in *The Sum of all Fears* is delivered with awe-inspiring power and precision [and] this subwoofer serves music with respect, too. Add a decent range of features and fine build into the equation and the conclusion is simple: the ASW750 is a winner."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Oct 03 ★★★★★

ACOUSTIC ENERGY
AEGIS EVOLUTION 3B
A/V SPEAKER PACKAGE
£899.95

"This is a great solution for those of you who take your hi-fi and home cinema seriously, and want a speaker package that handles both jobs well."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2003 HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

Sevenoaks
SOUND & VISION

PRODUCT RANGE

An outstanding selection of products are on display and available for demonstration at all Sevenoaks Sound & Vision stores. However, some products may not be available at all outlets.

Please call to check availability before travelling.

TURNTABLES

Michell Gyro SE/RB300 ..... £1049.95
Michell TecnoDec £599.95
Project Debut Phono SB £169.95
Project Debut II (Black) £119.95
Project Debut II (Colours) £134.95
Project 1 Xpression £209.95
Project RPM4 ..... £349.95

TUNERS

Arcam DiVA T61 ..... £249.95
Cyrus FM X £499.95
Denon TU260L MKII £119.95
Marantz ST4000 ..... £109.95
Pure Evoke 1 DAB £99.95
Pure DRX-702ES Analogue/DAB £329.95

CD PLAYERS

Arcam DiVA CD73T £399.95
Arcam DiVA CD82T £599.95
Arcam DiVA CD93T £949.95
Arcam FMJ CD33T £1299.95
Cyrus CD6 ..... £599.95
Cyrus CD8 ..... £999.95
Denon DCD485 ..... £129.95
Linn Genki £1099.95
Linn Ikemi £2199.95
Marantz CD5400 ..... £149.95
Marantz CD17/II M £799.95
Meridian 507 ..... £1194.95
Musical Fidelity A3.2 ..... £999.95
Musical Fidelity A308^{CR} £1999.95
Musical Fidelity Tri-Vista SACD £3994.95
Quad 99 CD-P £999.95
Roksan Kandy KD1 MKIII £594.95
Roksan Caspian £994.95
Rotel RCD02 ..... £379.95
Rotel RCD1072 ..... £594.95

RECORDERS

Pioneer PDR609 CD-RW £169.95
Sony RCDW3 CD-RW £199.95
Yamaha KX393 Cassette Deck £119.95
Yamaha KX580SE Cassette Deck £199.95
Yamaha CDR-HD1300 CD-RW £529.95

AMPLIFIERS

Arcam DiVA A65 Plus £369.95
Arcam DiVA A80 ..... £599.95
Arcam DiVA A85 ..... £799.95
Arcam FMJ A32 ..... £1149.95
Cyrus 6 ..... £599.95
Cyrus 8 ..... £799.95
Cyrus Pre X Pre £999.95
Cyrus Mono X Power ..... (Each) £1199.95
Denon PMA355 ..... £199.95
Linn Kolector Pre £574.95
Linn LK85 Power £544.95
Marantz PM4400 ..... £179.95
Marantz PM7200 (Black) £329.95
Musical Fidelity A3.2 ..... £979.95
Musical Fidelity A3.2 Pre £999.95
Musical Fidelity A3.2 Power £999.95
Musical Fidelity A308 ..... £1999.95
Musical Fidelity Tri-Vista 300 ..... £3994.95
Quad 99 Power £549.95
Roksan Kandy KA1 MKIII £594.95
Roksan Caspian £894.95
Rotel RA-01 ..... £249.95
Rotel RA-02 ..... £349.95
Rotel RA-1062 ..... £594.95

SPEAKERS

Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo One £179.95
Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo Three £349.95
Acoustic Energy AE1 MKIII (From) £1699.95
B&W DM303 ..... £179.95
B&W DM601 S3 ..... £249.95
B&W DM602 S3 ..... £299.95
B&W 705 ..... £899.95
KEF Q1 ..... £249.95
KEF Q3 ..... £399.95
KEF XQ1 ..... £999.95
Linn Katan £649.95
Linn Ninka £1099.95
Mission m31 ..... £129.95
Mission 780SE £349.95
Mission 782SE £899.95
Monitor Audio Bronze B2 ..... £199.95
Monitor Audio Silver S1 ..... £299.95
Monitor Audio Silver S6 ..... £599.95
Monitor Audio Gold Reference 10 ..... £799.95
Monitor Audio Gold Reference 20 ..... £1499.95
Quad 11L £379.95
Quad 22L £894.95
Ruark Epilogue II £344.95
Wharfedale Pacific Evolution 30 ..... £649.95

HI-FI SYSTEMS

Denon 201 Ex Speakers £549.95
Denon DF101 Ex Speakers £349.95
Denon DM31 Ex Speakers £229.95
Linn Classik Music Ex Speakers £849.95
Onkyo CS210 Ex Speakers £224.95
Teac Legacy 600 Inc Speakers £299.95
Teac Reference 300 Ex Speakers £469.95
Teac Reference 500 Ex Speakers £599.95

DVD SYSTEMS

Denon ADV1000 Ex Speakers £699.95
Jamo DVR50/A305PDD £599.95
Linn Classik Movie Ex Speakers £1499.95
Linn Classik Movie Di Ex Speakers £2999.95
Onkyo DR-S2.2 Ex Speakers £899.95
Pioneer DV565A/C-501 Ex Speakers £599.95
Teac Legacy 700/LS-L800 Speakers £949.95

DVD PLAYERS

MAKE & MODEL	REGION 2	MULTI REGION
Arcam DiVA DV88 Plus	£999.95	£999.95
Arcam DiVA DV89	£1299.95	£1299.95
Cyrus DVD8	£1199.95	£1199.95
Denon DVD-2900 Universal	£749.95	£799.95
Denon DVD-A1	£2149.95	£2199.95
Harman Kardon DVD21	£249.95	£249.95
Harman Kardon DVD25	£349.95	£349.95
Marantz DV4300	£249.95	£249.95
Onkyo DV-SP500	£249.95	£249.95
Pioneer DV360	£109.95	£129.95
Pioneer DV464	£129.95	£149.95
Pioneer DV565A Universal	£199.95	£229.95
Pioneer DV656A Universal	£299.95	£319.95
Pioneer DV757Ai Universal	£649.95	£699.95
Tag McLaren DVD32FLR	£2994.95	£2994.95
Teac DV50	£4499.95	£4499.95
Toshiba SD330E	£99.95	£119.95
Wharfedale DVD M3	£79.95	£79.95

DVD RECORDERS

MAKE & MODEL	REGION 2	MULTI REGION
Panasonic DMR-E50 DVD-R	£319.95	£ TBA
Philips DVDR70 DVD+RW	£299.95	£299.95
Philips DVDR75 DVD+RW	£399.95	£399.95
Pioneer Latest Models	£ POA	£ POA
Sony RDR-GX7 Recorder	£699.95	£ TBA
Toshiba RD-XS30 DVD Recorder	£569.95	£599.95

A/V AMPLIFIERS RECEIVERS & PROCESSORS

Arcam AVR200 A/V Receiver £799.95
Arcam AV8/P7 A/V Pre/Processor/Power £5499.95
Cyrus AV8 A/V Processor £1099.95
Denon AVC-A1SR A/V Amplifier £2499.95
Denon AVC-A11SR A/V Amplifier £1599.95
Denon AVR1604 A/V Receiver £299.95
Denon AVR1804 A/V Receiver £399.95
Denon AVR2803 A/V Receiver £599.95
Denon AVR3803 A/V Receiver £799.95
Harman Kardon AVR2550 A/V Receiver £399.95
Harman Kardon AVR5550 A/V Receiver £899.95
Harman Kardon AVR8500 A/V Receiver £1799.95
Marantz SR4400 A/V Receiver £349.95
Onkyo TX-SR501E A/V Receiver £299.95
Onkyo TX-SR601E A/V Receiver £449.95
Onkyo TX-NR900E A/V Receiver £1499.95
Pioneer VSX-C301 A/V Receiver £229.95
Pioneer VSX-C501 A/V Receiver £349.95
Pioneer VSX-D812 A/V Receiver £349.95
Pioneer VSX-AX3i A/V Receiver £729.95
Pioneer VSX-AX5i A/V Receiver £1049.95
Pioneer VSA-AX10i A/V Amplifier £2399.95
Rotel RSX1065 A/V Receiver £1799.95
Rotel RSP1066/RMB1075 A/V Pre/Power £1799.95
TAG McLaren AV30R A/V Processor £1799.95
TAG McLaren AV192R A/V Processor (From) £5999.95
Yamaha DSP-AX640SE A/V Amplifier £379.95
Yamaha RX-V440RDS A/V Receiver £269.95
Yamaha RX-V640RDS A/V Receiver £429.95
Yamaha RX-V1400RDS A/V Receiver £799.95

SUBWOOFERS

B&W ASW675 ..... £649.95
B&W ASW750 ..... £1199.95
MJ Acoustics Pro 50 (Black) £299.95
MJ Acoustics Pro 100 (Black) £599.95
MJ Acoustics Reference 100 (Black) £349.95
MJ Acoustics Reference 1 (Black) £699.95
REL Q150E MKII (Brittex Black) £499.95
REL Q201E £724.95
REL Q400E (Brittex Black) £999.95
REL Quake (Brittex Black) £349.95
REL Strata III (Wood) £699.95
REL Storm III (Brittex Black) £799.95

A/V SPEAKER PACKAGES

Acoustic Energy Aego 5 ..... £449.95
Acoustic Energy Aego P5 ..... £499.95
Acoustic Energy Evo 3B £899.95
B&W VM1/AS1 ..... £849.95
Energy Take 5.1 ..... £399.95
Energy Encore £999.95
Jamo D7 THX Ultra 2 (from) £3249.95
KEF KHT1005 ..... £499.95
KEF KHT2005.2 ..... £799.95
KEF Q7 AV £2199.95
M&K K5 ..... £1715.95
M&K K3 ..... £1894.95
M&K 850/CS35/V850 ..... £3899.95
Mission m70 ..... £479.95
Monitor Audio Bronze B4 ..... £949.95
Ruark Vita 120 ..... £1699.95

PLASMA

Fujitsu P42HHA10 42" £3699.95
Hitachi 32PD3000P 32" £2599.95
Hitachi 42PD3000E 42" £3299.95
Panasonic Latest Models ..... £ POA
Panasonic TH42PW6B 42" £3199.95
Philips Latest Models ..... £ POA
Pioneer PDP433MXEV 43" £3299.95
Pioneer PDP433HDE 43" £3699.95
Pioneer PDP434HDE 43" £4199.95
Pioneer PDP503HDE 50" £5499.95
Sony KE32TS2 32" £2899.95

LCD TV

Panasonic Latest Models ..... £ POA
Sharp Aquos LC-13B4E 13" £449.95
Sharp Aquos LC-13E1E 13" £429.95
Sharp Aquos LC-15B4E 15" £549.95
Sharp Aquos LC-15E1E 15" £499.95
Sharp Aquos LC-20B4E 20" £999.95
Sharp Aquos LC-20E1E 20" £949.95
Sharp Aquos LC-22SV2E 22" £1299.95
Sharp Aquos LC-30HV4E 30" £2799.95
Sharp Aquos LC-37HV4E 37" £4699.95
Sony KLV17HR1S 17" £899.95

PROJECTORS

Marantz VP-12S2 DLP £6999.95
NEC HT1000 DLP £3999.95
Sanyo PLV-Z1 LCD £1099.95
Screenplay SP5700 DLP £2999.95
Sharp XV-Z91E DLP £2099.95
Sim 2 Domino 20 DLP £3749.95
Sim 2 HT300 Plus DLP £7999.95
ThemeScene H30 Cinema DLP £1399.95
ThemeScene H56 Cinema DLP £2499.95
Yamaha LPX-500 LCD £3299.95
Yamaha DPX-1000 DLP £7999.95

SPECIAL OFFERS*

FREE INTERCONNECT CABLE WORTH £60
WHEN ANY CD & AMPLIFIER COMBINATION FROM THE FOLLOWING MANUFACTURERS IS PURCHASED TOGETHER:- ARCAM DIVA • ROTEL • ROKSAN KANDY

FREE INTERCONNECT CABLE WORTH £100
WHEN ANY CD & AMPLIFIER COMBINATION FROM THE FOLLOWING MANUFACTURERS IS PURCHASED TOGETHER:- MUSICAL FIDELITY • ROKSAN CASPIAN

FREE SPEAKER CABLE WORTH £50
WITH ANY B&W • KEF OR MISSION SPEAKERS OVER £280

FREE DIGITAL CABLE WORTH £50
WITH THE DENON AVR3803 A/V RECEIVER & WITH ANY HARMAN/KARDON OR ONKYO A/V RECEIVER

FREE BEYER DT231 GALACTIC HEADPHONES WORTH £44.95
WITH THE DENON D-M31 SYSTEM

£ PRICING POLICY
SEVENOAKS SOUND & VISION OPERATES A PRICING POLICY - SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 13

*SPECIAL OFFERS - Not in conjunction with any other offer or promotion and when sold at the prices quoted in these adverts. Some products may not be available at all outlets.
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SEVENOAKS OUTLETS NATIONWIDE

Within the M25

BROMLEY 39A EAST STREET
• 020 8290 1988

CHELSEA 403 KINGS ROAD
• 020 7352 9466

CROYDON 369-373 LONDON ROAD
• 020 8665 1203 *OPEN SUNDAY*

EPSOM 12 UPPER HIGH STREET
• 01372 720720 *OPEN SUNDAY*

HOLBORN 144-148 GRAYS INN ROAD
• 020 7837 7540

KINGSTON 43 FIFE ROAD
• 020 8547 0717 *OPEN SUNDAY*

SOUTHGATE 79-81 CHASE SIDE
• 020 8886 2777

STAINES 4 THAMES STREET **NEW**
• 01784 460777 *OPENING MID-OCTOBER***

SWISS COTTAGE 21 NORTHWAYS PDE, FINCHLEY RD
• 020 7722 9777 *OPEN SUNDAY*

WATFORD 478 ST ALBANS ROAD
• 01923 213533 *OPEN SUNDAY*

WEYBRIDGE 43 CHURCH STREET, THE QUADRANT
• 01932 828525 **NEW**

****NEW STAINES STORE • THIS STORE IS DUE TO OPEN 18TH OCTOBER, PLEASE CHECK BEFORE TRAVELLING**

Nationwide

BEDFORD 29-31 ST PETERS STREET
• 01234 272779

BRIGHTON 57 WESTERN ROAD, HOVE
• 01273 733338

BIRMINGHAM ARCH 12, LIVERY STREET
• 0121 233 2977

BRISTOL 92B WHITELADIES ROAD, CLIFTON
• 0117 974 3727

CAMBRIDGE 17 BURLEIGH STREET
• 01223 304770

CARDIFF 104-106 ALBANY ROAD
• 029 2047 2899

CHELTENHAM 14 PITTVILLE STREET
• 01242 241171

CRAWLEY 32 THE BOULEVARD
• 01293 510777

EDINBURGH 5 THE GRASSMARKET
• 0131 229 7267

EXETER 28 COWICK STREET
• 01392 218895

GLASGOW 88 GREAT WESTERN ROAD
• 0141 332 9655

GUILDFORD 73B NORTH STREET
• 01483 536666

HULL 1 SAVILE ROW, SAVILE STREET
• 01482 587171

IPSWICH 12-14 DOGS HEAD STREET
• 01473 286977

LEEDS 62 NORTH STREET
• 0113 245 2775 *OPEN SUNDAY*

LEICESTER 10 LOSEBY LANE
• 0116 253 6567

LINCOLN 20-22 CORPORATION STREET
• 01522 527397 *(OFF HIGH STREET)*

LIVERPOOL 16 LORD STREET
• 0151 707 8417

MAIDSTONE 96 WEEK STREET
• 01622 686366 *OPEN SUNDAY*

MANCHESTER 69 HIGH ST, CITY CENTRE
• 0161 831 7969

NEWCASTLE 19 NEWGATE STREET
• 0191 221 2320

NORWICH 29-29A ST GILES STREET
• 01603 767605

NOTTINGHAM 597-599 MANSFIELD ROAD
• 0115 911 2121

OXFORD 41 ST CLEMENTS STREET
• 01865 241773

PETERBOROUGH 36-38 PARK ROAD
• 01733 897697 *OPEN SUNDAY*

PLYMOUTH 107 CORNWALL STREET
• 01752 226011

POOLE LATIMER HOUSE, 44-46 HIGH STREET
• 01202 671677

PRESTON 40-41 LUNE STREET
• 01772 825777 *OPEN SUNDAY*

READING 3-4 KINGS WALK SHOPPING CENTRE
• 0118 959 7768

SEVENOAKS 109-113 LONDON ROAD
• 01732 459555

SHEFFIELD 635 QUEENS ROAD, HEELEY
• 0114 255 5861 *OPEN SUNDAY*

SOLIHULL 149-151 STRATFORD ROAD
• 0121 733 3727

SOUTHAMPTON 33 LONDON ROAD
• 023 8033 7770 *OPEN SUNDAY (FROM NOVEMBER)*

SWANSEA 24 MANSEL STREET
• 01792 465777

SWINDON 8-9 COMMERCIAL ROAD
• 01793 610992

TUNBRIDGE WELLS 28-30 ST JOHNS ROAD
• 01892 531543

WITHAM (ESSEX) 1 THE GROVE CENTRE
• 01376 501733

WOLVERHAMPTON 29-30 CLEVELAND STREET
• 01902 312225 *OPEN SUNDAY*

OPENING HOURS: PLEASE TELEPHONE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
E-MAIL: [insert store name]@sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk

WHO ARE SEVENOAKS?

Founded in 1972, Sevenoaks Sound & Vision is one of the largest and most successful hi-fi and home cinema retailers in the country.

Each Sevenoaks Sound & Vision outlet stocks a wide range of quality products, covering all categories of specialist home entertainment, from Hi-Fi separates and systems to DVD players, widescreen plasma televisions and projection systems, all at highly competitive prices.

Friendly staff are available in all stores to advise, demonstrate and guide you through the home entertainment jungle.

NEW OUTLETS

We are pleased to announce the Weybridge store is now open and the store in Staines is due to open 18th October. We will also be opening in Ealing (North London) - Subject to legal completion.

CUSTOM INSTALLATION

Sevenoaks Sound & Vision's Custom Installation Service enables the integration of a home cinema or hi-fi system into your home as neatly and seamlessly as possible. All electronics can be hidden away, speakers discreetly mounted either in the wall or ceiling and the complete system operated via remote control.

Our installation experts are fully trained to the highest standards in all areas and provide a prompt, reliable and professional service. Whether you're looking for a multi-room system, a dedicated home cinema installation with a retractable screen and built-in speakers or an integrated control or lighting system, Sevenoaks Sound & Vision has a diverse range of products available to cater for all your requirements.

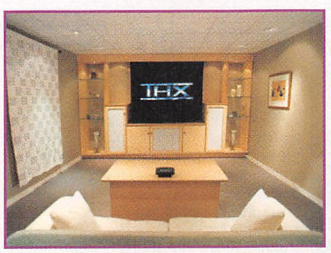
SEVENOAKS WEBSITE

The Sevenoaks Sound & Vision website has news and information on the Sevenoaks group and its outlets.

There are regularly updated special offer and stock clearance lists with hundreds of products available and detailed pages to help you locate your nearest outlet. To find out more, click on **www.sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk**

DEMONSTRATION FACILITIES

Our comfortable demonstration rooms are among the finest in the country, many complying with full THX specifications.



STOCK CLEARANCE

With 49 outlets nationwide, the Sevenoaks Sound & Vision group stock and display a wide range of products. As models and product ranges are changed or superseded, the preceding models are made available at a reduced price, for clearance. Visit our Website for an up-to-date list of the clearance stock.

PRICING POLICY

Whilst we do not claim always to be the cheapest, we try to ensure our prices are highly competitive. Take into account the expert advice, unrivalled product selection, demonstration facilities and excellent pre, during and after sales service and the lower price might not look such good value.

In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention. We will always endeavour to offer you the best deal.

www.sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk

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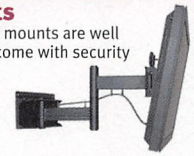
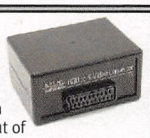
Keene Electronics mail order

Plasma screen wall mounts



These high quality Plasma screen wall mounts are well constructed, safe, easy to install and come with security bolts. Static wall mount pattern [BT782] £99.99 Tilting wall mount pattern [BT783] £149.99 Swing arm style (pictured) [BT781] £449.99. Just add a mounting plate for your model Plasma (most models from £119.99) to solve the fixing problem! Call for more details or check www.keene.co.uk

RGB to S-Video convertor



RGB is a great for sending video, with picture resolution as good as S- and much better than composite video. Trouble is, not everything can accept an RGB signal. Problem solved! This box converts the RGB scart output of Sky Digital/ITV Digital boxes, and DVD players, into S-video. Ideal for making high resolution connections to AV amps, S-VHS/D-VHS recorders and plasma screens. Order [RGB2S] **£59.99**

Sound level meter with digital display

How well set up is your home cinema? How low does your subwoofer go? Find out for sure, with the accuracy you need, using this digital sound level meter. Great value, it features built in mic, 7 selectable frequency ranges, weighting selector, adjustable sensitivity from 50 to 126dB, FAST & SLOW response settings, tripod adaptor for stand mounting, and more. Phono output for connection to external equipment. 21-bar graphical display. Power: PP3 type 9V battery (not included). [SLM2055] **£39.99**

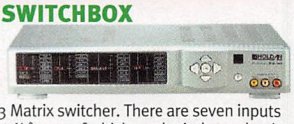
RGB to component video transcoder

Another Keene original, the RGB2C will convert an RGB input to a Y Pb Pr component output, or, at the push of a switch, component input to RGB output. Caters for sync on green or composite sync input, and provides sync on green or composite sync output. LED indicators provide useful information on the type of signals present and the process being performed. Designed to fit in-line with the signal path, has SCART input and output connectors for easy installation. Supplied complete with UK mains adaptor and scart to 3 phono adaptor. *What Video and TV* "Best Buy" [RGB2C] **£89.99**
Also available c/w choice of 2m output cable (phono, 15pin HD or BNC) £114.99

Network MP3 player

Enjoy listening to MP3 music on your computer? Ever thought it would be nice to be able to listen to it elsewhere but don't want a computer in every room? SLIMP3 is an MP3 player that streams your music from your computer to your home stereo over your network giving lightning-fast access to any song in your collection, from any room with no limit to the size of your music library. It really is incredibly easy it is to set up and use, just install the server software (Mac, Windows or Linux) and plug the player into your CAT5 network. The player will auto configure itself and you'll be playing music within minutes. It has a very user-friendly interface that allows you to quickly browse through your music collection or enjoy internet radio (broadband required). Supports m3u playlists and can display ID3 tags on a two line scrolling display. Absolutely brilliant! [SLIMP3] **£209.00**

HSR1000 SCART SWITCHBOX



An advanced scart switchbox with some interesting features, the HSR1000 is effectively a Home Cinema friendly 7x3 Matrix switcher. There are seven inputs in total (six scart plus front AV), any of which can be independently routed to one of four outputs (three AV, one audio only). For example you could have your DVD player routed to a TV, your satellite routed to a VCR, your Freeview box routed to your Video sender and another input routed to your Hi-Fi! Four of the input scarts support RGB, one is composite only and one is composite or s-video. Also supports digital audio (SPDIF) on three of the inputs. Switching is auto or manual (via the front panel or with the IR remote incl). All in all, pretty amazing! [HSR1000] **£95.00**

UK standard delivery (Royal Mail 2nd Class post) £2.50 per order. 1st Class post £4.50 per order, next working day delivery (UK mainland only, remote areas may take longer) £8.00 per order. Overseas and export deliveries by airmail charged at cost.

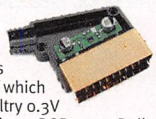
LOW COST AV/DV CONVERTOR

A low cost tool for capturing analogue footage with a DV card, providing seamless conversion between composite, s- video and DV. Convert either way, eg capture VHS footage using your DV card, or feed your DV camcorder into an analogue device. Based upon the tried and tested innards of the DataVideo DAC2 with just the RGB terminals stripped off, this is a great addition to any DV editing set-up. Includes UK mains adaptor, FireWire cable 6-pin/4-pin, 3 phono/3 phono cable, s-video cable. [DAC100] **£195.00**

Scart Commander 4:1 scart switchbox

A high quality AV switcher from Keene, designed to allow connection of multiple sources to one display, all via scart connections. With 4 video, 2 audio, 2 data and 2 control channels it can handle component, composite, s-, and RGB video, even digital audio (with the correctly configured cable). Input selection manual (by IR remote, included, or push button) or automatically via signal detect. Use a single Scart Commander for four inputs to one output switching, or two units in a master/slave arrangement to provide 7:1 switching. Visual LED indication of selected output. Programmable default on power up settings. Separate mains adaptor for improved mains isolation. Solid metal case for enhanced screening. *What Video* 'Best Buy' March 2003
Order [KSC] **£149.99** Twin pack (7:1 switching) [KSCT] **£249.99**

Keene SyncBlaster RGB cables



Use SyncBlaster cables to connect RGB scart equipment directly to projectors, plasma screens and LCD screens*, most of which struggle to work on the paltry 0.3V sync provided from an ordinary RGB scart. Built in to the scart connecting plug of SyncBlaster cables is a fully functional sync separator and amplifier which can draw its power directly from the scart socket (pin 8) so for most applications there's no power supply to worry about either!

	Length	Code	Price
SyncBlaster scart to 15 pin HD (SVGA) plug	1.5m	SGB12	£69.99
	3.0m	SGB13	£74.99
	5.0m	SGB14	£79.99
	10.0m	SGB15	£89.99
SyncBlaster scart to 5 BNC plugs (RGB plus Hsync & Vsync)	1.5m	SGB22	£69.99
	3.0m	SGB23	£74.99
	5.0m	SGB24	£79.99
	10.0m	SGB25	£89.99

**Not suitable for use with monitors designed solely for computer use (screen must support a horizontal scan rate of 15.625kHz. Most projectors, plasma and LCD panels do, most CRT monitors don't)*

RF THROUGH MODULATORS

Wideband RF Through Modulator
Display AV signals on a TV. When installed in-line with aerial in and out connections, the AV signal can be put on to any UHF TV channel from 21–69. Ideal for use with CCTV security cameras, VCRs without RF output etc. PAL I/G switchable with test signal. Order [KRFTW] **£49.99**
RF Through Modulator tunable channels 30–40, [KRFT] **£34.99**

Mini wireless spy cameras

Complete kit including colour camera (pictured) and receiver just **£79.99** [KC802]. Other models available, please give us a call or check www.keene.co.uk

PSC200 professional progressive scan convertor

TV, DVD, tapes, and other interlaced sources look good on CRT displays, but often not so good when viewed on larger, higher resolution displays in applications such as home theatre, HDTV upscaling, projector presentations, etc., because the display's built in scaling circuitry may be basic and optimised for computer video input only. In such cases, an external progressive scan converter will bring the source one step closer to the optimum picture quality. The PSC200 is an advanced progressive scan converter that accepts composite, S- or YCbCr component video input from any PAL/NTSC video source and scales it up to 1280x1024 (SXGA) and 720p (HDTV) resolutions, providing RGB or YCbCr component video output. Supplied complete with UK mains power adaptor, leads, remote control and full instructions. [PSC200] **£325.00**
If your source device gives out an RGB signal, you need an RGB to component video convertor to provide a correct input signal for the BriteView. Save nearly £30 on our bundle deal of the PSC200 plus the Keene RGB2C convertor [PSCKIT] just **£385.00**

STERLING CABLES Gold

Just a selection from our range of AV leads produced specifically for home cinema and other high end applications. All have gold plated end connectors and Oxygen Free Copper cable for audio, low loss co-ax cable for video.

	0.75m	1.5m	3.0m	5.0m	10.0m
1 phono plug / 1 phono plug	£9.99 [SG11]	£12.99 [SG12]	£15.99 [SG13]	£19.99 [SG14]	£24.99 [SG15]
2 phono plugs / 2 phono plugs	£9.99 [SG21]	£12.99 [SG22]	£15.99 [SG23]	£19.99 [SG24]	£24.99 [SG25]
3.5mm stereo jack / 2 phono plugs	£tba [SG201]	£12.99 [SG202]	£tba [SG203]	£19.99 [SG204]	£tba [SG205]
3 phono plugs / 3 phono plugs	£12.99 [SG31]	£15.99 [SG32]	£19.99 [SG33]	£24.99 [SG34]	£29.99 [SG35]
S-VHS plug / S-VHS plug	£9.99 [SG41]	£12.99 [SG42]	£15.99 [SG43]	£19.99 [SG44]	£24.99 [SG45]
Scart plug / scart plug	£12.99 [SG51]	£15.99 [SG52]	£19.99 [SG53]	£24.99 [SG54]	£29.99 [SG55]
Scart plug / S-VHS plug + 2 phono plugs, signal OUT of scart	£15.99 [SG81]	£19.99 [SG82]	£24.99 [SG83]	£29.99 [SG84]	£34.99 [SG85]
Scart plug / S-VHS plug + 2 phono plugs, signal IN to scart	£15.99 [SG81A]	£19.99 [SG82A]	£24.99 [SG83A]	£29.99 [SG84A]	£34.99 [SG85A]
Scart plug / S-VHS plug + 2 phono plugs, switchable IN or OUT of scart	£15.99 [SG81S]	£19.99 [SG82S]	£24.99 [SG83S]	£29.99 [SG84S]	

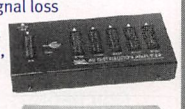
High quality cables custom made to any length & configuration – please call with your requirements.

Video STANDARDS CONVERTORS

NTSC to PAL convertors
Analogue – for viewing only. [SB3600] **£59.99**
Digital, for viewing and recording on PAL VCR. 12Mbit field memory [KDV500] (pictured) **£239.99**
World standard VCRs from £499.99

DISTRIBUTION AMPLIFIERS

Make multiple simultaneous copies without signal loss



5-Way video + audio (scart) One in 5 out all via scarts. Fully wired, fully buffered. Composite, RGB & s-video compatible. [SDA] **£89.99**

Keene 4-Way with Line Drive

S- or composite video plus stereo audio – 4 identical outputs from one input. Uniquely features a switchable line drive option, enabling it to send outputs over longer cable runs (up to 100m) than normally possible [KDA] **£69.99**

Buy on-line at www.keene.co.uk

Now your IR remote can 'see' round corners and into cabinets!

The Keene IR Distribution Amplifier receives IR command signals from your remote or the receiver of a wireless system and routes them to where they're needed, even round corners or into cabinets where your choice of low power, high power or side firing emitter wand transmits the commands to the equipment. Basic kit supports up to 5 emitters and comprises IR distribution amp, one each low and high power wands, mains power adaptor [IRBKIT] **£34.99** *Requires receiver:* Standard [IRSR] £7.99 Wideband [IRWBR] £12.99 • Basic kit as above + standard receiver bundle [IRBKITS] £39.99

PROGRESSIVE SCAN TV CONVERTOR

Turn any LCD monitor into a TV

Really useful, this silver coloured video switchbox can line double (output to SVGA) and has a built in terrestrial (analogue) TV tuner. Turn your video projector, CRT, LCD or plasma display into a true multimedia centre – use the PV105 to link it to a DVD player, VCR, camcorder, games console or satellite receiver, or to watch TV on it. No PC required. Incorporates a line doubler to increase brightness and reduce flicker with 480p line resolution output at 31.5kHz on a VGA or LCD monitor. Inputs: RF (satellite or cable), S-video, composite video, VGA (15 pin D type connector), stereo audio. Outputs supported: VGA (640x480), SVGA (800x600) and XGA (1024x768) via 15 pin D type connector. IR remote, UK mains adaptor included [PV105] **£109.00**
NEW Plus model with all features as above plus Nicam stereo, Teletext and channel re-order [PROVP] **£149.00**

Remote controls

We are main stockists for Marantz and Philips Pronto remotes – call or visit www.keene.co.uk for details.

Intelligent mains panel

Simply plug your PC into the master socket and then use the five remaining sockets for your monitor, printer, modem etc. in fact anything you would normally switch on and off at the same time as your computer. When the mains panel detects the PC has been switched off (or gone to sleep) it automatically switches off all the other outlets. When the PC is switched on again (or wakes from sleep) the peripherals are powered again. A brilliant device that saves time and money! Can also be used with AV amplifiers to give one click power control for CD player, DVD player, Tuner, Sub-woofer, games console, etc. [IMPCA] **£24.99**

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Speakers continued

Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power ratings	Biwirable	Height width depth	Finishes
Acoustic Energy Aego 2 (sub/sat)	300	★★★★★	Apr 01	Stereo sub/sat package for PCs and games consoles but fine in a hi-fi set-up too.	bo	-	-	A85	No	3 units	2
Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3	350	★★★★★	Feb 03	Exceptionally musical and undoubted class leaders.	fl	91	8	150	Yes	88.19.22	3
Acoustic Research Status S40	249	★★★★☆	May 01	Well-built impressive speakers capable of huge scale and acres of bass.	fl	91	6	150	Yes	99.20.34	2
ALR/Jordan Entry S	199	★★★★☆	Jul 01	Good choice if space is tight, may lack some bass but they major on midrange clarity.	sb	87	8	50	No	22.13.18	2
ATC SCM7	480	★★★★★	Apr 03	Reach remarkable levels of performance - they're class in a half-pint glass.	st	84	8	300	Yes	30.16.21	2
AVI Neutron III	499	★★★★★	Sep 01	Compact and accomplished all-rounders that rarely put a foot wrong.	sb	87	8	150	No	27.14.21	Ch
B&W DM303	180	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. But they now fail to match the latest competition.	st	88	8	100	No	33.20.24	2
B&W DM600SE	200	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Fantastic-looking but a relaxed bass means they work best in a 5.1 system.	st	88	8	100	No	29.18.22	3
B&W DM601 S3	250	★★★★★	Mar 02	Stunning speakers - evolutionary improvements on their predecessors.	st	88	8	100	Yes	37.20.23	3
B&W DM602 S3	300	★★★★★	Dec 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Offer impressive scale and authority.	st	90	8	120	Yes	49.24.29	2
B&W DM602.5 S3	400	★★★★☆	May 02	Extremely well-built entry-level floorstanders but they can lack bass power.	fl	88	8	100	Yes	85.20.29	3
Blue Room Minipods	350	★★★☆☆	Jun 00	Fun and stylish product, but for the serious audiophile they lack detail and dynamics.	sb	90	4	100	No	34.21.22	Va
Boston Acoustics CR75	199	★★★☆☆	Jun 01	Warm, big and smooth sound but others do much more for the money.	bo	89	8	100	No	32.19.24	Bk
Bush BA2003	100	★★☆☆☆	Jul 02	Cheap for their size, but too many compromises make them outsiders.	fl	N/A	4	200	No	90.25.29	2
Castle Richmond 3	280	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Give an open, articulate performance but need a touch more civility at the top end.	sb	86	8	70	No	28.17.19	9
Castle Pembroke	500	★★★★☆	Aug 00	Fine-looking and well-built but they lack that last ounce of magic.	fl	88	8	75	Yes	73.19.21	9
Cyrus CLS50	450	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Fabulous in most areas, but are let down by their below-par bass performance.	st	86	8	100	Yes	25.18.27	3
Dali AXS 5000	270	★★★☆☆	Oct 98	Big boxes with a thumping sound at a very competitive price. Not the last word in finesse.	fl	90	6	120	No	90.24.33	Mh
Dali Royal Menuet II	450	★★★★☆	Oct 00	Refined and musical performers that work best in smaller rooms. Superb for their size.	sb	87	4	100	Yes	25.10.18	2
Dynaudio Audience 42	400	★★★★★	Dec 02	Rhythmic compact monitors that like to go loud and party hard.	st	86	4	150	No	28.17.25	5
Eltax Monitor III	129	★★★★★	Jun 00	Compact, cohesive-sounding and strong on rhythm - a great buy.	sb	89	6	90	Yes	30.19.23	2
Eltax Liberty 3+	149	★★★★☆	Jan 01	Not the most even-handed around, but they are still great-sounding speakers.	sb	87	6	80	Yes	38.21.34	2
Eltax Liberty 5+	199	★★★★★	Mar 99	Expressive and exciting, these are excellent speakers for the money.	fl	87	6	100	Yes	84.20.34	2
Energy Connoisseur C3	300	★★★☆☆	May 03	Well made stylish speakers with good timing and rhythm but brash treble could grate.	bo	92	8	125	No	39.20.29	2
Epos ELS3	200	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Decent control and timing but they lack reach at the end of the frequency range.	st	87	4	100	No	27.17.19	3
Epos M12	499	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Highly enjoyable speakers that offer great timing and superb stereo imaging.	st	88	8	75	Yes	38.20.25	2
Gale Silver Monitor	80	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Good speakers that are at their best with rock, but watch out for peaky treble.	st	87	8	100	Yes	27.18.17	Bk
Gale Gold Monitor	90	★★★★☆	Feb 02	A decent buy if you're on a tight budget - match them with smooth-sounding kit.	st	88	6	70	No	27.18.17	2
Heco Xenon 600	449	★★☆☆☆	May 02	Look and sound brutish and can overpower. You'll need a big room to accommodate them.	fl	92	4	300	Yes	115.23.38	2
Heybrook Point Five	130	★★★★★	Jan 01	Superb value for money, these Heybrooks are a genuinely musical pair of speakers.	st	89	6	70	Yes	30.17.20	2
Heybrook HB1 2000	180	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Classy and can be sublime with classical music. Rock and Dance fans look elsewhere.	sb	90	6	75	Yes	38.21.24	2
Heybrook HB2	230	★★★★☆	Nov 00	Fine dynamics and scale, but not balanced enough to really worry the class leaders.	sb	90	6	100	Yes	43.24.29	2
Heybrook HB3	350	★★★★☆	May 02	Will appeal to those who place refinement and definition above all.	fl	90	6	100	Yes	90.24.29	2
Heybrook HB4	500	★★★★☆	Mar 01	Capable speakers that excel with voices but are a little too polite so lack sparkle.	fl	90	6	150	Yes	100.24.29	2
Infinity Alpha 10	150	★★★☆☆	Jan 01	Well-built and smooth sounding though resolution disappoints.	st	88	8	80	No	32.18.26	3
Infinity Alpha 20	200	★★★☆☆	Mar 02	Incredibly easy on the eye but lack the excitement to challenge the leaders.	st	89	8	100	Yes	38.22.28	3
Jamo E805	175	★★★☆☆	Aug 03	Small in stature and they sound small, but the price tag is comparatively large.	st	90	8	100	Yes	31.19.24	3
Jamo A 510 (was called Art)	260	★★★★☆	May 93	Potentially bass-heavy delivery. Use away from walls for relaxed, even-handed sound.	wl	88	8	60	No	35.40.9	2
JBL LX2002	200	★★★★☆	Mar 02	Great if you're after a thrilling, gutsy sound. Good value but they lack subtlety.	st	89	6	125	Yes	30.20.24	3
JM Lab Chorus 705	189	★★★★★	Jul 01	Supremely enjoyable design and definitely one for the shortlist.	st	88	8	60	No	30.18.20	Va
JM Lab Chorus 706	239	★★★★☆	Nov 01	Solid speakers that are well worth an audition. Bass can be slightly woolly.	st	89	8	75	No	37.20.26	Va
JM Lab Chorus 710	349	★★★★☆	Jul 01	Very good speakers with a lot of class, but they're not as punchy as their best rivals.	fl	89	8	80	No	85.20.27	Va
JPW 201	119	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Fine-looking tiny speakers with a more than acceptable sound.	bo	90	6	60	No	26.15.24	2
JPW Millennium ML 310i	120	★★★★☆	Oct 99	A fine budget design, with pleasant and engaging sound.	sb	89	6	70	Yes	31.18.17	Bk
JPW Millennium ML 510i	150	★★★★☆	Jun 00	Pleasant and listenable speakers with fine rhythmic ability but treble lacks detail.	st	89	6	70	Yes	33.22.20	2
JPW 202	159	★★★★☆	Mar 02	Solid performers but don't have the all-round talent to worry the class leaders.	st	91	6	80	Yes	38.21.30	2

RATINGS

- Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Speakers continued

Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power ratings	Biwirable	Height width depth	Finishes
KEF Cresta 10	130	★★★☆☆	Sep 03	Yes they're cheap, but KEF can do much, much better than these disappointing Cresta 10s.	st	90	8	100	Yes	31.19.24	3
KEF Coda 70	200	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Wonderfully stylish and natural-sounding speakers, but they lack the dynamics to thrill.	sb	91	8	70	Yes	31.18.28	2
KEF Q1	250	★★★★★	Aug 02	Deeply impressive speakers, terrifically articulate and informative.	st	91	8	120	Yes	35.22.32	3
KEF Coda 90	380	★★★★☆	Feb 03	Smart and sophisticated speakers, but they lack outright attack.	fl	91	8	125	Yes	89.18.30	2
KEF Q3	400	★★★★☆	May 02	Entry-level, perfect for jazz and classical music, but they lack a little bit of oomph.	fl	91	8	120	Yes	78.24.32	3
Linn Classik Unik	250	★★★★★	Jan 03	Tested with the Classic Music System. They provide an easy listen plus fine insight.	st	88	8	-	No	36.32.34	2
Magnat Vector Needle 11	129	★★★☆☆	Jan 01	Well-built, cute and certainly have sonic merits but there are better for the money.	st	89	6	50	No	22.13.15	3
Magnat Vector 22	199	★★☆☆☆	Sep 98	Hold no attraction for us - bass is loose and poorly controlled and treble is abrasive.	sb	90	4	120	Yes	38.22.30	Bk
Magnat Vintage 120	269	★★☆☆☆	Dec 01	Look great, but disappoint with a ham-fisted sonic performance.	fl	91	4	150	Yes	97.20.32	2
Magnat Vintage 420	499	★★☆☆☆	May 02	Well built but poorly balanced speakers - there are more attractive options at this price.	fl	92	4-8	280	Yes	100.25.31	4
Mission m70	100	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Compact, cute and capable of a great sound in small rooms.	st	87	8	75	No	25.15.23	3
Mission 700	130	★★★★☆	Jun 00	Still fine speakers delivering plenty of punchy bass and having a real talent with vocals.	st	87	8	75	No	34.19.26	2
Mission m31	130	★★★★☆	Sep 03	Deep bass and low price are among their plus points, but voices can sound unrealistic.	st	88	8	75	Yes	26.17.28	3
Mission m71i	130	★★★★★	Oct 02	Wonderfully musical for this kind of money - a great hi-fi bargain.	st	88	8	75	Yes	30.17.28	2
Mission 701	160	★★★★★	May 98	An astounding level of sonic excitement crammed into a box sold for so little money.	st	89	8	100	No	45.22.30	2
Mission m72	170	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Well-built and stylish - offer a lot to rock fans but they lack the subtlety of the best.	st	89	8	100	Yes	34.20.31	2
Mission 702e	200	★★★★★	Apr 99	Outstanding product for the money and up there with the best budget floorstanders.	fl	89	8	100	Yes	85.22.30	2
Mission 771e	200	★★★★★	Aug 00	Magical, sounding big and exciting as well as sweet enough to suit many systems.	st	87	8	100	Yes	31.17.23	3
Mission m73i	200	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Lots of speaker for the money, but similarly priced rivals offer intense competition.	fl	90	8	90	Yes	85.20.31	2
Mission 772	250	★★★★☆	Jan 00	Will delight with their sheer musical dexterity, but they are not for lovers of bass.	st	87	8	100	Yes	42.17.27	3
Mission 780	300	★★★★★	Dec 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Terrific speakers, they sound very good indeed.	st	87	8	150	Yes	28.17.27	3
Mission m74i	300	★★★★★	Feb 03	Superb powerhouse speakers - the low-end performance, to put it simply, is fantastic.	fl	91	8	150	Yes	95.20.33	2
Mission m51	300	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Look, and sound, big and bold. But they're not the most refined around.	st	87	8	100	Yes	32.21.35	3
Mission 780SE	350	★★★★★	Feb 03	Hugely talented little boxes which are especially suitable for small listening rooms.	sb	87	8	150	Yes	28.17.27	3
Mission fs2-A	390	★★★★★	Sep 00	Two NXT satellite speakers and a sub - sensational package that sounds and looks good.	wl	86	8	75	No	32.14.5	Gy
Mission 773e	400	★★★★☆	Mar 01	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Still good speakers but overtaken by talented newcomers.	fl	88	8	130	Yes	85.17.27	3
Mission Volare V62	500	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Promising start for Mission's Volare range - the V62s are good value and do little wrong.	fl	88	8	100	Yes	89.21.33	3
Mission 781	500	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Almost gain class-leading status, but lose out due to a lethargic low-end.	st	88	8	175	Yes	35.21.31	3
Mission 774	500	★★★★★	Sep 98	Excellent performers combining real clarity with taut, rhythmic and controlled bass.	fl	89	8	150	Yes	92.18.32	3
✪ Monitor Audio Bronze B2	200	★★★★★	Sep 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Wonderfully built and produce a thoroughly enjoyable sound.	sb	90	6	100	Yes	35.19.25	2
Monitor Audio Bronze B4	350	★★★★☆	Feb 03	Weighty muscular bass, high resolution and strong dynamics make for a thrilling listen.	fl	91	6	150	Yes	85.19.26	2
Mordaunt-Short 912	200	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Disappointing design which is average with h-fi but better with movies.	st	89	6	150	Yes	36.20.30	2
NHT SB2	399	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Entertaining speakers with authority, weight and warmth but the treble lacks refinement.	sb	-	8	150	Yes	30.18.23	2
✪ Quad 11L	379	★★★★★	Jul 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Simply phenomenal value for money.	sb	86	6	150	Yes	33.19.24	4
Quadral Maxi 300	140	★★☆☆☆	Nov 02	Excellent build and stylish but sonically they are unremarkable.	wl	87	8	150	No	20.13.13	3
Quadral Caerul QLX 115	170	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Entertaining on a short listen, but the Quadrals fall short when finesse is called for.	st	86	6	100	No	35.23.24	2
Quadral Caerul QLX 160	270	★★★☆☆	Mar 01	Impress with size and scale but the performance lacks cohesion and detail.	fl	87	4-8	80	No	80.23.24	2
Rega Ara	255	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Persuasive, will appeal to those with small rooms who don't crave big bass.	st	N/A	8	75	No	32.17.20	3
Rega Alya	398	★★☆☆☆	Feb 03	Provide a reasonable performance in a small room, but hard to recommend for the money.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	73.17.20	2
Revolver R33	499	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Highly competent standmounters, but not ideal if you value excitement above all else.	st	89	8	100	Yes	39.21.28	Mp
Richard Allan Minette 2	139	★★★★☆	Apr 97	Now back at their original bargain price, offering plenty of bass and biwiring capability.	st	89	8	100	Yes	30.16.20	Gp
Ruark Acoustics Epilogue II	345	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Mightily appealing with classy build and fine midrange - warrant an audition.	sb	87	8	100	Yes	27.19.23	Va
Sequence Model 400	300	★★★★☆	Oct 96	Can't handle everything, but it's wall-hanging that's central to their appeal.	wa	89	8	75	Yes	100.25.7	6
Sony SS-LA500ED(priced each)	160	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Stylish egg-shaped speakers - more than adequate for use in a stereo or modest AV system.	bo	86	8	120	No	32.16.22	5
Sony SS-B4ED	329	★★★☆☆	Feb 03	Decent all-rounders, but now rather overshadowed by the quality of rivals.	fl	87	8	150	Yes	84.19.31	Bc
Tannoy Mercury mX1	120	★★★★☆	Jun 00	Good speakers with great stereo imaging, but outshone by the mX2s at only £30 more.	st	87	8	70	No	30.17.22	2
Tannoy Mercury mX2-M	150	★★★★★	Sep 03	Impress with their fast bass, refined higher frequencies and good build quality.	st	88	8	120	Yes	33.19.25	2
Tannoy Revolution R1	200	★★★★☆	Jan 00	Refined speakers that put in a superb performance with vocals and classical.	bo	87	8	70	Yes	30.17.20	Ch
Tannoy Mercury mX3	230	★★★★☆	Apr 00	Articulate and open performers and fine value, but their finish could be better.	fl	89	8	120	Yes	85.19.24	2
Tannoy Revolution R2	400	★★★★☆	Aug 99	Beautifully built, they have a full and weighty sound though lack sonic versatility.	fl	88	6	150	Yes	92.17.24	Ch
Tannoy Sensys DC1	449	★★★★☆	Jul 03	Highly competent speakers, but would benefit from a more passionate delivery.	st	88	8	150	Yes	41.21.29	Mp
Triangle Titus 202	345	★★★★☆	Aug 02	If you place excitement and speed high on your priorities list give them a serious listen.	st	90	8	60	Yes	32.20.28	3
Wharfedale Diamond 8.1	120	★★★★☆	Sep 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Neat solution for small, restricted listening rooms.	bo	86	6	100	Yes	30.20.18	2
Wharfedale Diamond 8.2	150	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Combine refined treble with a dynamic performance, but they're no longer class leaders.	st	86	6	100	Yes	36.21.26	2
Wharfedale Diamond 8.3	200	★★★★★	Dec 01	Terrific performers for the money. Few can match their all-round sonic abilities.	fl	86	6	100	Yes	80.21.26	2
Wharfedale Pacific Pi-10	250	★★★★★	Mar 02	Their looks won't appeal to everybody but they are impressive performers.	bo	86	6	120	No	41.22.28	Bc
Wharfedale Evolution-10	320	★★★★☆	Jul 03	Loads of bass for the money but they lack the sparkle of the best at this price.	st	87	6	150	Yes	38.23.34	3
Wharfedale Pacific Pi-20	350	★★★★☆	May 01	Elegant and sturdy - with electronic-based music they are right up with the best.	fl	87	6	120	No	91.22.28	2
Wharfedale Evolution-20	450	★★★★☆	Jun 03	With a bit more control and detail they could win full marks. Position away from walls.	fl	87	6	150	Yes	85.23.34	3
Wharfedale Pacific Pi-30	450	★★★★☆	May 02	Odd-looking, but close your eyes and they'll certainly draw you into the music.	fl	89	6	200	No	93.22.33	Bc
Wharfedale Pacific Pi-40	500	★★★★☆	Mar 01	Fine-sounding and refined design let down by poor aesthetics and finish on the tweeter.	fl	89	6	200	Yes	110.22.37	2

£501–£1500

AAD E-48	595	★★★☆☆	Mar 03	Slick-looking and well-constructed and offer decent value for money.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	107.13.31	2
Arcaydis AK3	599	★★★★★	Jul 03	Highly enjoyable, they may look plain and boxy but they sound sweet and full-bodied.	fl	89	8	100	Yes	79.20.24	Va
ART Skibo	800	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Fast and fun enough to make these speakers worth a serious listen.	st	90	8	80	Yes	44.19.25	2

RATINGS
✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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BOSE LIFESTYLE® 50

Digital Audio Home Entertainment System

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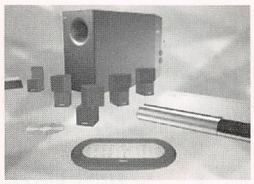

› Flagship Model › Palm-sized Personal ® music centre provides complete system information and operation › Includes 6 disc CD changer music centre with AM/FM tuner with Dolby® digital 5.1 decoding plus Videostage® 5 decoding › Five Direct/Reflecting® twin Tiny Jewel Cube® speakers › Improved Hideaway Acoustimass® bass module and remote › 4-source/multi-room expansion capability

0% APR 36 MONTHS 10% DEPOSIT

DEAL £4499

BOSE LIFESTYLE® 35

Digital Audio Home Entertainment System

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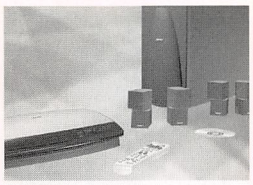


› Play DVDs, CDs, CD-R/RW & MP3s on CD from the stylish and innovative media centre › Media Centre includes AM/FM tuner with Dolby® digital 5.1 decoding › Five Direct/Reflecting® twin Tiny Jewel Cube® speakers › Improved Hideaway Acoustimass® bass module and remote › ADAPTIQ[tm] audio calibration system customises sound to your room environment and seating position.

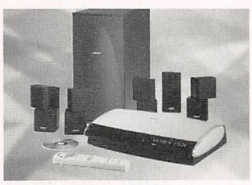
0% APR 36 MONTHS 10% DEPOSIT

DEAL £3299

BOSE LIFESTYLE® 28

Digital Audio Home Entertainment System

ASK ABOUT THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER!



› Play DVDs, CDs, CD-R/RW & MP3s on CD from the stylish and innovative media centre › Media Centre includes AM/FM tuner with Dolby® digital 5.1 decoding › Five Direct/Reflecting® twin cube speakers › Improved Hideaway Acoustimass® bass module and remote › ADAPTIQ[tm] audio calibration system customises sound to your room environment and seating position.

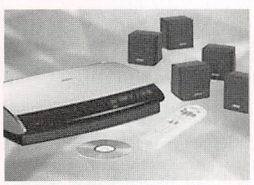
0% APR 36 MONTHS 10% DEPOSIT

DEAL £2499

BOSE LIFESTYLE® 18

Digital Audio Home Entertainment System

ASK ABOUT THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER!



› Play DVDs, CDs, MP3s on CD and more from our stylish and innovative media centre › Media Centre includes AM/FM tuner with Dolby® digital 5.1 decoding › Enjoy compelling surround sound with five Virtually Invisible® cube speakers › Hideaway Acoustimass® bass module and remote

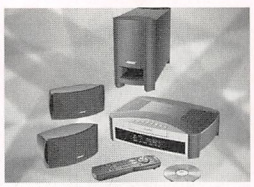
0% APR 36 MONTHS 10% DEPOSIT

DEAL £1949

BOSE LIFESTYLE® 3.2.1

Digital Home Entertainment System

ASK ABOUT THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER!



A revolutionary advancement in home entertainment system that includes an integrated DVD/CD player, AM/FM tuner, amplification and signal processing, five speakers are replaced by two. A patented Acoustimass® module, designed to provide performance and simplicity unmatched by conventional component or all-in-one solutions.

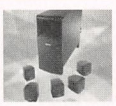
0% APR 24 MONTHS 10% DEPOSIT

DEAL £999

BOSE LIFESTYLE® 6 MK2

Home Cinema Speaker System

ASK ABOUT THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER!



› An exceptional 5.1-channel home cinema speaker system. › Includes 5 single cube speakers › Powered Acoustimass® bass module

0% APR 18 MONTHS 10% DEPOSIT

DEAL £549

BOSE LIFESTYLE® 8

Digital Audio Home Entertainment System

ASK ABOUT THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER!

› A first-class introduction to digital home cinema › Includes single-CD music centre with AM/FM tuner with Dolby® digital 5.1 decoding › Five single cube speakers › Acoustimass® bass module and remote

0% APR 24 MONTHS 10% DEPOSIT

DEAL £1249

BOSE LIFESTYLE® 12 MK2

Digital Audio Home Entertainment System

ASK ABOUT THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER!

› A first-class introduction to digital home cinema › Includes single-CD music centre with AM/FM tuner with Dolby® digital 5.1 decoding › Five Direct/Reflecting® twin cube speakers › Hideaway Acoustimass® bass module and remote

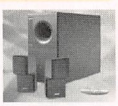
0% APR 36 MONTHS 10% DEPOSIT

DEAL £1749

BOSE LIFESTYLE® 5

Home Cinema Speaker System

ASK ABOUT THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER!



› Next generation Direct/Reflecting cube speaker arrays for smaller size and better sound. › Improved Acoustimass® module › Direct/Reflecting speaker technology delivers lifelike music.

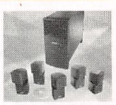
0% APR 12 MONTHS 10% DEPOSIT

DEAL £399

BOSE LIFESTYLE® 10 MK3

5.1 Home Cinema Speaker System

ASK ABOUT THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER!



› A high-performance 5.1-channel home cinema speaker system. › Includes 5 Direct/Reflecting® twin speaker arrays › Powered Acoustimass® module

0% APR 18 MONTHS 10% DEPOSIT

DEAL £799

BOSE LIFESTYLE® 15 MK2

6.1 Home Cinema Speaker System

ASK ABOUT THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER!

› 6.1 Channel Upgradeable Channel Home Cinema Speaker System › Our best 5.1-channel home cinema speaker system. › Includes 5 Direct/Reflecting® twin speaker arrays › Powered Acoustimass® module › Optional 6.1 twin cube array available

0% APR 24 MONTHS 10% DEPOSIT

DEAL £1049

Model	Comment/ Promotion	Was/ TMMP*	Now	Save
Home Theatre Systems				
ACOUSTIC ENERGY				
AEGO P5 / 5 STAR	0%APR or 15% FREE GOODS!!**	£599.99	£499.99	£100.00
BOSE				
BOSE 321	0%APR - ASK ABOUT MEGADEAL!!!		£999.99	
LS8/DVD	0%APR - ASK ABOUT MEGADEAL!!!		£1,249.99	
LS12MK2/DVD	0%APR - ASK ABOUT MEGADEAL!!!		£1,749.99	
LS18	0%APR - ASK ABOUT MEGADEAL!!!		£1,949.99	
LS28	0%APR - ASK ABOUT MEGADEAL!!!		£2,499.99	
LS35	0%APR - ASK ABOUT MEGADEAL!!!		£3,299.99	
LS50	0%APR - ASK ABOUT MEGADEAL!!!		£4,499.99	
DENON				
ADVM71	DVD RECEIVER		NEW!	
JVC	MULTIREGION	£349.99	£259.88	£90.11
TH-A35R	MULTIREGION	£499.99	£429.88	£70.11
THA75R				
PANASONIC	MULTIREGION	£399.99	£322.88	£77.11
SCHT500	MULTIREGION	£549.99	£449.88	£100.11
SCHT900				
PHILIPS	MULTIREGION	£349.99	£209.88	£140.11
LX3000D				
PIONEER	MULTIREGION + FREE STANDS!!	£379.99	£279.88	£100.11
DCS313	MULTIREGION - NEW MODEL	£649.99	£539.88	£110.11
NSDV99	MULTIREGION - NEW MODEL	£819.99	£689.88	£130.11
NSDV990	MULTIREGION	£1,299.99	£899.88	£400.11
NSDV1000				
SONY				
HTBE1	INC SPEAKERS	£249.97	£199.88	£50.09
DAVSA30	MULTIREGION	£379.99	£289.88	£90.11
DAVS550	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£499.99	£289.88	£210.11
DAVSC5	MULTIREGION-NEW MODEL		SALE	SAVE
DAVSC6	MULTIREGION-NEW MODEL		SALE	SAVE
DAVS888	MULTIREGION	£799.99	£629.88	£170.11
DAVSC8	MULTIREGION-NEW MODEL		SALE	SAVE
TEAC				
AL700P	LEGACY POWER AMP	£199.99	£163.88	£36.11
LEGACY 700	LEGACY DVD RECEIVER & AMP	£699.99	£551.88	£148.11
LEGACY 700 SPK	WHAT HIFI AWARD WINNER!!!	£1,099.99	£861.88	£238.11
YAMAHA				
DVXS100	AWARD WINNING - MULTIREGION	£799.99	£399.88	£400.11
Widescreen Televisons				
JVC				
AV-28T25EK	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£549.98	£397.88	£152.10
AV28R25EK	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£599.99	£439.88	£160.11
AV-28X37HK	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£649.99	£480.88	£169.11
AV32R25EK	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£799.99	£639.88	£160.11
PANASONIC				
TX28PS1C	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£549.98	£396.88	£153.10
TX28PS12C	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£649.99	£545.88	£104.11
TX32PS1C	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£849.99	£636.88	£213.11
TX32PS12C	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£949.99	£699.88	£250.11
TX32PD30	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£1,499.99	£1,169.88	£330.11
TX36PD30	2003 WHAT HIFI AWARD WINNER!!	£1,999.99	£1,599.88	£400.11
PHILIPS				
24PW6006C	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£349.99	£249.88	£100.11
28PW6006C	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£389.99	£299.88	£90.11
28PW6517	FREE DVD WSL** CONDITIONS APPLY	£449.99	£328.88	£121.11
28-AW9308	AWARD WINNER	£699.99	£563.88	£136.11
32PW9308	AWARD WINNER	£999.99	£784.88	£215.11
36PW9308	FREE DVD & NICAM VCR-WSL**	£1,399.99	£1,223.88	£176.11
28PW9618/5 STAR	FREE DVD & NICAM VCR-WSL**	£1,199.99	£849.88	£350.11
32PW9618	FREE DVD & NICAM VCR-WSL**	£1,499.99	£1,149.88	£350.11
36PW9618	FREE DVD & NICAM VCR-WSL**	£1,999.99	£1,429.88	£570.11
SONY				
KV24LS35	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£499.99	£394.88	£105.11
KV28LS36	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£484.96	£442.88	£42.08
KV28FX68	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£749.99	£562.88	£187.11
KV32FX68	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£999.96	£799.88	£200.08
KV28FQ70	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£949.99	£723.88	£226.11
KV32FQ70	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£1,199.99	£959.88	£240.11
KD32DX150	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£1,299.97	£964.88	£335.09
KV32FQ80	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£1,599.97	£1,195.88	£404.09
KD32NX200	PACKAGE DEALS - ASK FOR DETAILS	£1,949.97	£1,328.88	£621.09
TOSHIBA				
32ZD26P	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£1,049.99	£839.88	£210.11
32ZP38B	FREE DVD,VCR & STANDS! - WSL**	£1,599.99	£1,209.88	£390.11
36ZD26P	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£1,499.85	£1,149.88	£349.97
36ZP38B/ 5 STAR	FREE DVD,VCR & STANDS! - WSL**	£1,999.96	£1,499.88	£500.08
Plasma & LCD Televisions				
PANASONIC				
TX15LT2	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£1,149.94	£849.88	£300.06
TX22LT3	NEW 22" MODEL - IN STOCK NOW!	£1,999.99	£1,599.88	£400.11
TH42PA20B	42" PLASMA INC TUNER	£4,499.99	£3,379.88	£1,120.11
TH42PW6B	42" PLASMA BLACK/SILVER	£3,999.99	£2,799.88	£1,200.11
PHILIPS				
15PF9936	15" LCD INC STAND	£549.99	SALE	SAVE
17PF9945	17" LCD INC STAND	£899.99	SALE	SAVE
30PF9975	30" LCD INC STAND	£2,799.99	SALE	SAVE

*TMMP=Typical Major Multiple Price **WSL = While Current Stocks Last. ** Free goods offer is not in conjunction with any other offer or promotion & does not apply to recording media and accessories.

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Main Authorised Dealers for all brands sold

0% APR OPTION

Buy any product/s over £150 and get up to 12 months Interest Free Option. Conditions apply. Ask for details. Finance is subject to status. Hi-Spek are licensed Credit Brokers.

FREE DELIVERY

On all products nationwide. [Applies to mainland & excludes Scottish highland areas]

What our customers have to say...

"Delighted with both service and price".. "...staff were very helpful and courteous".. SG

Hi SPEK

Want To Check Our Latest Prices or Want To Order? Call us now on **01727 791133**

or visit us online at www.hispek.com or visit one of our stores

HUGE AUTUMN SAVINGS!

HUGE CHOICE GREAT PRICES!

Main Authorised Dealers for all brands sold

EXTENDED GUARANTEES

Buy an extended guarantee and get absolute peace of mind!

- Total parts & labour cover
- No bills to pay
- New for old replacement
- Accidental damage cover

HUGE STOCKS

Unlike some retailers, we at Hi-Spek hold stock for all items we advertise for sale in this magazine. The only matter we have no control over is the manufacturers ability to supply and keep up with our sales demand!!

What our customers have to say...

"...excellent service all round.." KT

Model	Comment/ Promotion	Was/ TMMP*	Now	Save
Plasma & LCD Televisions				
PHILIPS				
32PF9965	32" PLASMA INC WALL BRACKETS	£3,499.99	SALE	SAVE
37PF9965	37" PLASMA INC WALL BRACKETS	£3,999.99	SALE	SAVE
42PF9965	42" PLASMA INC WALL BRACKETS	£4,499.99	£3,499.88	£1,000.11
PIONEER				
PDP433HDE	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£4,999.99	£3,299.88	£1,700.11
PDP503HDE	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£6,999.99	£4,999.88	£2,000.11
SHARP				
LC15E1E	15" LCD		SALE	SAVE
LC20E1E	20" LCD		SALE	SAVE
LC22SV2E	22" LCD - AWARD WINNER		SALE	SAVE
LC30HV4E	30" LCD - AWARD WINNER		SALE	SAVE
SONY				
KLV15SR	15" LCD		SALE	SAVE
KLV17SR2	17" LCD		SALE	SAVE
KLV21SR2	21" LCD		NEW!	
KLV23HR2	23" LCD		NEW!	
KLV30MR1	30" LCD		SALE	SAVE
KE32TS2	2003 WHAT HIFI AWARD WINNER!!!		SALE	SAVE
KE42TS2	42" PLASMA		SALE	SAVE
Projection TV				
SONY				
KP44PX2		£1,929.97	£1,499.88	£430.09
KF42SX200	FREE 5 YEAR WARR!	£2,799.99	£2,399.88	£400.11
KF50SX200	FREE 5 YEAR WARR!	£4,299.99	£2,999.88	£1,300.11
TOSHIBA				
42WT29B	FREE TOWER SPKRS & STANDS	£1,699.99	£1,279.88	£420.11
50WT29B	FREE SUBWOOFER & SPKR STANDS	£1,949.96	£1,499.88	£450.08
LCD Projectors				
PANASONIC				
PTAE200EC	AWARD WINNER	£1,499.99	£957.88	£542.11
PTAE300EC	AWARD WINNER	£1,999.99	£1,355.88	£644.11
SONY				
VPLHS2	FREE SCREEN - WSL**	£1,599.97	£1,069.80	£530.17
Home Theatre Amplifiers				
DENON				
AVCA11SR (B)/(G)	0%APR OR 20% FREE GOODS!!**		£1,799.99	
AVCA1SR (B)/(G)	0%APR OR 20% FREE GOODS!!**		£2,999.99	
PIONEER				
VSA AX10i	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£2,699.99	£2,232.88	£467.11
YAMAHA				
DSPAX640SE	WINNER!! - FREE SPKR PACKAGE!!		£399.99	
Home Theatre Processors				
YAMAHA				
DSPE800	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£369.95	£239.88	£130.07
Home Theatre Receivers				
DENON				
AVR1603		£299.99	£199.88	£100.11
AVR1803 (B)/(G)		£399.99	£299.88	£100.11
AVR1604	NEW- 0%APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!**		£299.99	
AVR1804	NEW- 0%APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!**		£399.99	
AVR2803 WINNER!	0%APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!**		£649.99	
AVR3803 (B)/(G)	0%APR OR 20% FREE GOODS!**		£899.99	
MARANTZ				
SR4300 (B)/(G)	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£349.99	£259.88	£90.11
SR5300 (B)/(G)	AWARD WINNING	£449.99	£333.88	£116.11
SR7300 (B)/(G)	AWARD WINNING	£659.99	£449.88	£210.11
SR4400 (B)/(S)	NEW- 0%APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!**		£349.99	
SR5400 (B)/(S)	NEW- 0%APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!**		£449.99	
PIONEER				
VSXC100S / DV454	RECEIVER/DVD PACKAGE	£429.99	£239.88	£190.11
VSXC501 / DV565	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£699.98	£559.88	£140.10
VSXD512		£199.99	£164.88	£35.11
VSXD812	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£399.95	£329.88	£70.07
VSXD912		£499.99	£411.88	£88.11
VSXAX3	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£799.99	£657.88	£142.11
VSXAX5i	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£1,199.99	£956.88	£243.11
SONY				
STRDB1080	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£499.99	£399.88	£100.11
STRDB2000	NEW MODEL	£499.99	SALE	SAVE
YAMAHA				
RXV440RDS/5 STAR	FREE SPKR PACKAGE!!		£299.99	
HTR5640RDS/5 STAR	FREE SPKR PACKAGE!!		£299.99	
RXV540RDS	FREE SPKR PACKAGE!!		£379.99	
RXV640RDS/5 STAR	FREE SPKR PACKAGE!!		£469.99	
RXV740RDS	FREE SPKR PACKAGE!!		£559.99	
Hifi & Home Theatre Speaker Packages				
ACOUSTIC ENERGY				
AEGIS EVO 3B	0%APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!**		£949.99	
AEGIS EVO 6.1 PACK	0%APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!**		£999.99	
AEGIS EVO 7.1 PACK	0%APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!**		£1,049.99	
BOSE				
AM3	0%APR - ASK ABOUT MEGADEALS		£249.99	
AM5/3	0%APR - ASK ABOUT MEGADEALS		£399.99	
AM6MK2	0%APR - ASK ABOUT MEGADEALS		£549.99	
AM10MK3	0%APR - ASK ABOUT MEGADEALS		£799.99	
AM15MK2	0%APR - ASK ABOUT MEGADEALS		£1,049.99	
KEF				
KHT1005	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£499.99	
KHT2005.2/WINNER	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£799.99	
KHT5005	NEW MODEL		NEW	
Q7AV / 5 STAR	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£2,199.99	
MISSION				
M7S	AWARD WINNER	£399.99	£275.88	£124.11

*TMMP=Typical Major Multiple Price ** WSL = While Current Stocks Last. ** Free goods offer is not in conjunction with any other offer or promotion & does not apply to recording media and accessories.

PANASONIC TX36PD30

Award Winning Flagship TV

EXTRA CASH OFF!

Ask about our package deals on this product.

100 HZ | NEW PRODUCT | FREE DELIVERY | 0% APR OPTION

- 16:9 QuintrixSR (fine pitch) widescreen flat picture tube
- AV picture-in-picture
- DVD progressive scan input
- Four scart terminals

Tmmp £1999

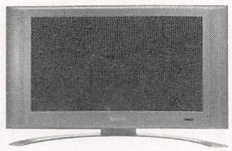
NOW £1599

PHILIPS 30PF9975

Award Winning LCD TV

EXTRA CASH OFF!

Ask about our package deals on this product.



Pixel + | NEW PRODUCT | FREE DELIVERY | 0% APR OPTION

- Pixel Plus Technology
- 4 On Board Speakers
- Widescreen Plus
- Integrated Tuner
- Virtual Dolby
- 1200 Page Hypertext
- Stand Included
- 15" & 17" also available

Tmmp £2899

NOW £SALE

HUGE CHOICE GREAT PRICES!

SONY KE32TS2

Award Winning Plasma TV

EXTRA CASH OFF!

Ask about our package deals on this product.

NEW PRODUCT | FREE DELIVERY | Pixel +

- 1024 x 852 resolution
- Built-in tuner
- Built-in speakers
- Integrated table-top stand
- 3 x SCART (2RGB)
- Subwoofer

Tmmp £3499

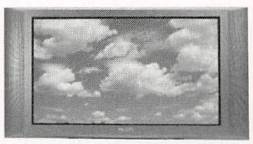
NOW £SALE

PHILIPS 42PF9965

Award Winning Plasma TV

EXTRA CASH OFF!

Ask about our package deals on this product.



BEST BUY | 0% APR OPTION | Pixel + | FREE DELIVERY

- HD AliS Panel
- Pixel Plus
- Digital Natural Motion
- Digital Crystal Clear
- Tuner & wall brackets supplied
- Stand optional
- 32 & 37" also available

Tmmp £4499

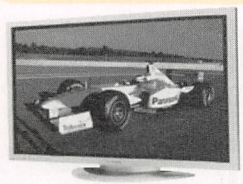
NOW £3499

PANASONIC TH42PW6B

Award Winning Plasma Monitor

EXTRA CASH OFF!

Ask about our package deals on this product.



HOME CINEMA BEST BUY | 0% APR OPTION | NEW PRODUCT | FREE DELIVERY

- Plasma display panels in 42"/50"
- Exceptional brightness and contrast
- Wall brackets, tuner, table stand & speakers optional
- Available in Black/Silver

Tmmp £3799

NOW £2799

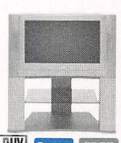
JVC AV28T25

Award Winning 28" Flat Widescreen TV

EXTRA CASH OFF!

Ask about our package deals on this product.

- Widescreen Natural Flat Picture Tube
- TV Link, Fastext
- Auto Aspect Switching
- Front L/R: 25 watts x 2
- DVD/VCR optional
- Supplied with stand



BEST BUY 2003 | BEST BUY | 0% APR OPTION | FREE DELIVERY

Tmmp £549

NOW £397

PANASONIC TX28PS1C

Award Winning 28" Flat Widescreen TV

EXTRA CASH OFF!

Ask about our package deals on this product.

- 16:9 Quintrix picture tube
- NICAM stereo sound
- Digital Comb Filter
- Noise Reduction
- Stand included

Best Buy 2003 | 0% APR OPTION | FREE DELIVERY

Tmmp £549

NOW £396

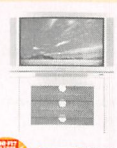
PHILIPS 28PW9618

Award Winning 28" Dolby Digital TV

FREE DVD PLAYER & NICAM VCR

Hurry, offer only while current stocks last!

- Real Flat BlackLine-S
- Pixel Plus
- Digital Natural Motion
- Digital Crystal Clear
- Dolby Digital (ProLogic2)
- 2 NXT FM Cordless Spks
- Stand optional



Best Buy 2003 | 0% APR OPTION | FREE DELIVERY

Tmmp £1199

NOW £849

SONY KV32FX68

100Hz Widescreen TV

EXTRA CASH OFF!

Ask about our package deals on this product.

- FD Trinitron WEGA screen
- 100Hz (RRBB)
- 3 x SCART (RGB on SCART 1 and 2)
- Universal remote
- Supplied with stand

0% APR OPTION | FREE DELIVERY

Tmmp £999

NOW £799

TOSHIBA 36ZP38B

Picture Frame Widescreen TV

FREE DVD PLAYER, NICAM VCR & SPKR STANDS

Hurry, offer only while stocks last!

- 086cm face Flat 16:9 screen
- Component video input and output
- Dolby Digital
- 32" also available
- Supplied with stand

Best Buy 2003 | 0% APR OPTION | FREE DELIVERY

Tmmp £1999

NOW £1499

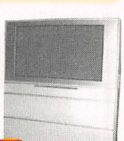
TOSHIBA 32ZD26

Award Winning 32" Widescreen TV

EXTRA CASH OFF!

Ask about our package deals on this product.

- 100Hz DFS (Dynamic Frame Scan)
- Progressive Scan
- Digital Comb Filter
- Nicam Stereo
- Supplied with cabinet



Best Buy 2003 | 0% APR OPTION | FREE DELIVERY

Tmmp £1049

NOW £839

Want To Check Our Latest Prices or Want To Order? Call us now on 01727 791133

or visit us online at www.hispek.com or visit one of our stores

Hi SPEK

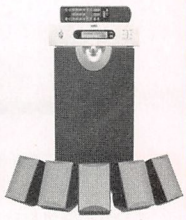
HUGE AUTUMN SAVINGS!

HUGE CHOICE GREAT PRICES!

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AEGO P5
Award Winning Home Theatre System

0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!
*Buy this product & we will give you 15% of the value in FREE GOODS!! (Exc recording media & accessories)***

£100 SAVING · FREE DELIVERY · 0% APR · What HiFi Best Buy 2003

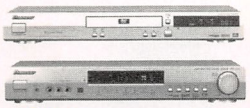


- Subwoofer/satellite system
- 5 inputs, two digital, three analogue
- Six-channel output
- Auto off power switch
- Sub level bass

Orig £599.99
NOW £499

PIONEER DV454/VSXC100S
DVD & Home Cinema Receiver Package

FANTASTIC PACKAGE OFFERING!!



What HiFi Best Buy 2003 · £190 SAVING · FREE DELIVERY · 0% APR OPTION

VSXC100S : › New design of slim receiver to match the new DV-454 › D/A Converter 96 kHz / 24 bit › Super Bass
DV454 : › New high-quality graphical user interface › New easy-to-use remote controller › SCART includes RGB output

Orig £429.88
NOW £239

ACOUSTIC ENERGY EVO 3B PACK
Award Winning Speaker Package

0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!
*Buy this product & we will give you 15% of the value in FREE GOODS!! (Exc recording media & accessories)***

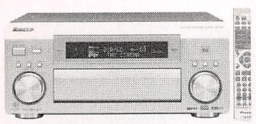
What HiFi Product of the Year 2003 · FREE DELIVERY · 0% APR

Consisting Of:
› Aegis Evo 1 › Aegis Evo 3 › Aegis Evo Centre › Aegis Evo Sub › Available in Black, Light Maple and Dark Apple.

DEAL £949

PIONEER VSXAX3
Award Winning Home Cinema Receiver

BRAND NEW MODEL!



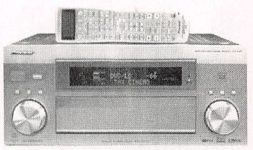
What HiFi Best Buy 2003 · £140 SAVING · FREE DELIVERY · 0% APR OPTION

› Air Studio's sound tuning & THX Select Certification › DTS-96/24, DTS-ES, THX Surround Ex, Dolby Digital EX

Orig £799.99
NOW £657

PIONEER VSXAX5i
Award Winning Home Cinema Receiver

BRAND NEW MODEL!



What HiFi Best Buy 2003 · £244 SAVING · FREE DELIVERY · 0% APR OPTION

› 96/24 DTS u Dolby Digital Surround › DTS ES Discreet 6.1 › DTS Neo: 6 › Dolby pro logic II › 100w x 7 DIN powerDolby Digital Surround

Orig £1199.99
NOW £956

PIONEER DCS313
Multi Region Digital Home Cinema System

FREE SPEAKER STANDS *Worth £50 with these systems. While stocks last!*

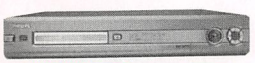
£100 SAVING · NEW PRODUCT · FREE DELIVERY

› Total power 450W (75W x 5 +75W) › MP3/WMA compatible › JPEG compatible › DVD-RW compatible › Simple Remote › Slim Design

Original £379.99
NOW £279

PHILIPS DVDR70
Award Winning Multiregion DVD Recorder

EXTRA CASH OFF!
Ask about our package deals on this product.



Home Cinema Best Buy · £160 SAVING · FREE DELIVERY · 0% APR OPTION

› Two-Way Compatibility › Index Picture Screen › Digital Picture Quality › Digital Sound Quality › PC Convergence › Recording time 6hrs

Original £449.99
NOW £289

TOSHIBA RDX530
Multiregion Award Winning DVD Recorder

BRAND NEW MODEL!

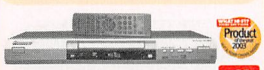
What HiFi Product of the Year 2003 · FREE DELIVERY · 0% APR OPTION

› Hard Disc & DVD-RAM/R Recorder › Recording Media: 60GB HDD/DVD-RAM / DVD-R › Playback Media: DVD-RAM, DVD-R, HDD, DVD-Video, VCD, CD, CD-R/RW (CD-DA only) › MP3 Playback

Original £699.99
NOW £599

PIONEER DV565A
Award Winning Multi Region DVD Player

BRAND NEW MODEL!



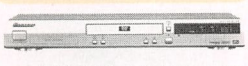
What HiFi Product of the Year 2003 · £80 SAVING · FREE DELIVERY · 0% APR OPTION

› Slim Design › Unique universal playback › 192 kHz / 24-bit D / AC › DV-R/RW compatibility › Built-in Dolby Digital › 5.1-channel DVD-Audio › Multi-region

Original £299.99
NOW £219

PIONEER DV360
Award-Winning Multi Region DVD Player

BRAND NEW MODEL!



› Slim DVD (Height 53mm) › CD-R RW compatible › WMA / MP3 playback › JPEG Photo Viewer › DVD-RW compatible › Zoom Function

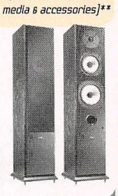
What HiFi Best Buy 2003 · £60 SAVING · FREE DELIVERY

Original £159.99
NOW £99

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AEGIS EVO 3
Award Winning Floor Standing Speakers

0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!
*Buy this product & we will give you 15% of the value in FREE GOODS!! (Exc recording media & accessories)***

› 3-way slim line floor standing speaker › Power Handling 150W max



What HiFi Best Buy 2003 · 0% APR · FREE DELIVERY

DEAL £349

Model	Comment/ Promotion	Was/ TMMP*	Now	Save
Hifi & Home Theatre Speaker Packages				
MISSION				
FS1AV	AWARD WINNER	£449.99	£310.88	£139.11
SONY				
SAVE835	AMAZING DEAL!!!	£699.99	£399.88	£300.11
YAMAHA				
NSP100	5.1 SPEAKER PACKAGE	£199.99	£149.99	£50.00
NSP106	6.1 SPEAKER PACKAGE	£249.99	£199.99	£50.00
Rear Surround Speakers				
ACOUSTIC ENERGY				
AEGIS COMPACT	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£119.99	
KEF				
Q8S	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£199.99	
Q2DS	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£399.99	
MISSION				
M3DS			£179.88	
Hifi Receivers				
YAMAHA				
DRA455	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£199.99	£159.88	£40.11
Subwoofers				
ACOUSTIC ENERGY				
AEGIS EVO SUB	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£299.99	
KEF				
PSW1000.2	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£199.99	
PSW2500	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£299.99	
PSW3000	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£599.99	
MISSION				
M3AS	0%APR		£249.99	
YAMAHA				
YSTSW005	55 WATT	£99.99	£79.88	£20.11
YSTSW015	70 WATT	£139.99	£109.88	£30.11
YSTSW105	100 WATT	£159.99	£99.88	£60.11
YSTSW215	150 WATT	£179.99	£139.88	£40.11
YSTSW315	250 WATT	£269.99	£219.88	£50.11
YSTSW320	AWARD WINNING 250 WATT	£379.99	£199.88	£180.11
Centre Speakers				
ACOUSTIC ENERGY				
AEGIS EVO CENTRE	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£149.99	
KEF				
Q9C	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£249.99	
MISSION				
M3C1			£99.99	
M3C2			£149.99	
Bookshelf Loudspeakers				
ACOUSTIC ENERGY				
AEGIS EVO 1 / 5 STAR	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£179.99	
KEF				
Q1	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£249.99	
MISSION				
M30			£99.99	
M31			£129.99	
Floorstanding Speakers				
ACOUSTIC ENERGY				
AEGIS EVO 3 / 5 STAR	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£349.99	
KEF				
Q3		£399.99	£246.88	£153.11
Q4	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£399.99	
Q5	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£599.99	
Q7 / 5 STAR	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£799.99	
DVD Players & Recorders				
ARCAM				
DiVA DV88PS (B)/(S)		£999.99	£799.88	£200.11
DENON				
DVD700	MULTIREGION		NEW!	
DVD900	MULTIREGION	£299.99	£199.88	£100.11
DVD1400	MULTIREGION		NEW!	
DVD2200	MULTIREGION		NEW!	
DVD2900	5 STAR WINNER MULTIREGION!!	£899.99	£714.88	£185.11
DVDA1G	AWARD WINNING	£2,499.99	£1,799.88	£700.11
JVC				
XV-N33SL	MULTIREGION	£149.99	£99.88	£50.11
XVNA77	MULTIREGION	£219.99	£179.88	£40.11
MARANTZ				
DV4400 (B)/(S)	MULTIREGION - 0%APR		£199.99	
DV4300 (B)/(G)	MULTIREGION	£309.99	£229.99	£80.11
NAD				
T512CT	MULTIREGION	£249.99	£193.88	£56.11
PANASONIC				
DVDS35EBS	MULTIREGION	£149.99	£119.88	£30.11
DVDS75EBS	MULTIREGION	£199.99	£143.88	£56.11
DMRES0EBS 5 STAR	RECORDER - MULTIREGION	£379.99	£299.88	£80.11
DMRE60EBS	RECORDER - MULTIREGION	£499.99	£399.88	£100.11
DMRHS2EBS 5 STAR	RECORDER - MULTIREGION	£799.99	£655.88	£144.11
PHILIPS				
DVDR70	RECORDER - MULTIREGION	£449.99	£289.88	£160.11
DVDR80	RECORDER - MULTIREGION	£599.99	£399.88	£200.11
PIONEER				
DV360 (S)/(B)	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER MREGION	£139.99	£99.88	£40.11
PIONEER				
DV454 (S)/(B)	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER MREGION	£179.99	£119.88	£60.11
DV464 (S)/(B)	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER MREGION	£179.99	£149.88	£30.11
DV565 / MULTIREG	2003 WHAT HIFI AWARD WINNER!!!	£299.99	£219.88	£80.11

*TMMP=Typical Major Multiple Price ** WSL = While Current Stocks Last. *** Free goods offer is not in conjunction with any other offer or promotion & does not apply to recording media and accessories.

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"...good website & competitive prices" AP

"..excellent range of products and a good range of prices to match" SB

"...will recommend you to our friends and family" RH

"very competitive prices!" ID

".....great service!!" AK

Model	Comment/ Promotion	Was/ TMMP*	Now	Save
DVD Players & Recorders				
SONY				
DVPNS330S	MULTIREGION	£149.88	£119.88	£30.00
DVPNS430S	MULTIREGION	£169.88	£134.88	£35.00
DVPNS930 (B)/(S)	MULTIREGION	£349.99	£270.88	£79.11
RDRGX3	RECORDER - MULTIREGION	£599.99	SALE	SAVE
RDRGX7	RECORDER - MULTIREGION	£799.99	£673.88	£126.11
TOSHIBA				
SD330E	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER M/REGION	£169.99	£109.88	£60.11
RDXS30	WHAT HIFI AW WIN M/REGION REC	£799.99	£599.88	£200.11
YAMAHA				
DVDS540 (B)/(S)	MULTIREGION	£219.99	£SALE	£SAVE
Hifi Systems & Components				
DENON				
DM31	SYSTEM EXC SPEAKERS	£239.99	£199.88	£40.11
DM31S	WHAT HIFI AW WINNER M/REGION REC	£299.99	£259.88	£40.11
DRRM31	TAPE FOR DM31	£129.99	£109.88	£20.11
DMDM31	MINIDISC FOR DM31	£239.99	£211.88	£28.11
DF101/S	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER INC SPKRS	£449.99	£365.88	£84.11
DRRF101	TAPE FOR DF101	£149.96	£126.88	£23.08
DMDF101	MINIDISC FOR DF101	£249.99	£211.88	£38.11
201CD/S	AWARD WINNING INC SPKRS	£799.99	£605.88	£194.11
DRR201	TAPE FOR 201APE FOR 201	£189.99	£158.88	£31.11
LINN				
CLASSIK	AWARD WINNING	£1,030.00	£799.88	£230.12
TEAC				
MD-H300	REF 300 MINIDISC	£299.95	£232.88	£67.07
MD-H500I	REF 500 MINIDISC	£349.95	£262.88	£87.07
REF300 SYSTEM	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£599.99	£459.88	£140.11
REF500 SYSTEM	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£799.99	£629.88	£170.11
LEGACY CRL 600	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£249.99	£210.88	£39.11
Hifi Amplifiers				
ARCAM				
DIVA A65S PLUS	AWARD WINNING	£369.99	£319.88	£50.11
DIVA A85S	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£799.99	
DENON				
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MARANTZ				
PM4200 (B)/(G)		£179.99	£129.88	£50.11
PM4400 (B)/(G)	NEW MODEL - 0% APR		£179.99	
PM7200 (B)/(G)	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£329.99	£268.88	£61.11
NAD				
C320BEE / 5 STAR	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£219.99	
C350	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£259.99	£194.88	£65.11
C352	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£349.99	
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SONY				
TAFE370		£124.96	£108.88	£16.08
TAFE570		£169.99	£131.88	£38.11
YAMAHA				
AX396		£169.99	£129.88	£40.11
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DENON				
DRW585		£199.99	£159.88	£40.11
YAMAHA				
KX393	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£139.99	£99.88	£40.11
KX580SE	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£249.99	£169.88	£80.11
Cd Players				
ARCAM				
DIVA CD73T	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£399.99	
DIVA CD82T/ 5 STAR	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£599.99	
MARANTZ				
CD5400	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!! 0%APR		£149.99	
NAD				
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C541i / 5 STAR	MEGA DEAL	£329.99	£199.88	£130.11
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CDPCE375		£239.99	£199.88	£40.11
CDPCX455		£349.99	£269.88	£80.11
Hifi Tuners				
ARCAM				
DIVA T61S		£249.99	£186.88	£63.11
DENON				
TU260LM2	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£129.99	£109.88	£20.11
PURE				
EVOKE 1	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!		£99.99	
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DRX701ESS	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£249.99	£192.88	£57.11
DRX702ESS	WHAT HIFI AWARD WINNER 0%APR		£329.99	
YAMAHA				
TX396L		£99.99	£79.88	£20.11
TX492RDS		£129.85	£99.88	£29.97
Cd & Hard Disc Recorders				
PIONEER				
PDR609	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£229.96	£159.88	£70.08
PDRW839		£299.85	£229.88	£69.97
SONY				
RCDW3	5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER!!	£199.99	£159.88	£40.11
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YAMAHA				
CDRHD1300/5 STAR	0% APR OR 15% FREE GOODS!!**		£599.99	

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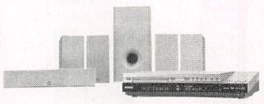

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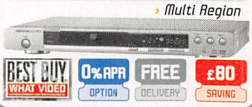

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› Available in Grey/Silver

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› CD-R & CD-RW Compatible
› 20 Tracks Programme Capability
› 24 bit Sigma-Delta
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DEAL £399

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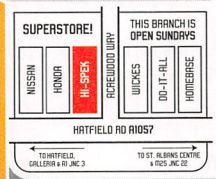

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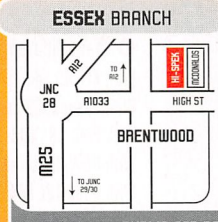

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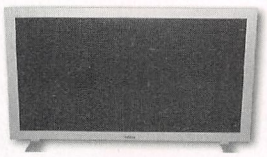

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* Interest free credit or deferred credit is available for purchases of £600 or above over 6 - 12 mths. Call for details single or combined purchases included

PRODUCT RANGE

Arcam ✳ AVI ✳ B&W ✳ Chord Co ✳ Denon Linn ✳ Naim ✳ PMC ✳ ProAc ✳ Pro-ject Pioneer ✳ Quad ✳ REL ✳ Rotel ✳ Spendor Sennheiser ✳ Sugden ✳ Yamaha

More Clearance items

up to 60% off normal price

Arcam CD62T CD Player (was 369)	£269.00
Arcam CD72T CD player (was 449)	£329.00
Arcam CD92 CD Player (was 849)	£479.00
Arcam AVR200 AV Receiver-Blk (was 799)	£499.00
Arcam DT26 DAB Tuner (was 999)	£549.00
Arcam A85 Amplifier (was 799)	£549.00
AVI UTES Loudspeakers (was 399)	£259.00
B&W CM2 Spkrs Maple (was 550)	£359.00
B&W CMC Centre Spkr Maple (was 350)	£199.00
Celestion Compact A Spks-R/wd (was 599)	£219.00
KEF Q3 Speakers Cherry - Dam (was 399)	£249.00
KEF KHT 2005 Speaker Pack Blk (was 799)	£499.00
Linn Classik Movie - Silver (was 1995)	£1195.00
Linn Classik Movie - Black (was 1995)	£1195.00
Linn Kairn Line Preamp (was 1400) **50%**	£699.00
Linn Klimax Twin Pwr Amp (was 6000)	£4395.00
Marantz DV7000 DVD (was 599) **60%**	£239.00
Marantz RC5000 Prog Remote (was 295)	£129.00
Naim Nait 5 Amplifier (was 845)	£659.00
Naim Headline H/Phone Amp (225)	£165.00
Naim NAT-05 Tuner (was 785)	£579.00
Naim NAP 150 Power Amp (was 795)	£595.00
Naim Credo Speakers (was 1350)	£699.00
Rega Mira Amplifier (was 498)	£269.00
Rega Radio Tuner (was 374)	£269.00
PMC TB2 Speakers Black (was 700)	£495.00
PMC DB1 Speakers Cherry (was 555)	£375.00
Rotel RV985 DVD Player (was 625) **60%**	£249.00
Sugden Masterclass Preamp (was 2100)	£1195.00
Sugden M/Class Stereo P/Amp (3150)	£1799.00

2 yr G/tee on most goods.- U.K. 24hr Del £5 per item. E&OE

Pre-Owned Bargains

Arcam CD72 CD Player (new 399)	£259.00
Linn Karik 2 CD Player (new 1850)	£395.00
Linn Numerik DAC (was 1400)	£295.00
Linn Wakonda Preamp (new 845.00)	£479.00
Linn Kairn Preamp (new 1400)	£599.00
Linn Kairn Phono Preamp (new 1700)	£849.00
Linn LK100 Power Amp (new 695)	£349.00
Linn 5103 AV Contoller (new 3500)	£1795.00
Linn 5105 AV Power Amp (new 1200)	£595.00
Naim CDS2 Mk2 CD Player (new 4165)	£3095.00
Naim Flatcap 2 Power Supply (was 499)	£375.00
Rega Luna Amplifier (new 498)	£259.00
Ruark Talisman Speakers (was 495)	£255.00
Spendor S3 Speakers-Maple (new 600)	£399.00
Tag DV32R DVD Player (new 4295)	£2395.00

All S/H goods carry 1 year warranty U.K. Delivery £5 per item

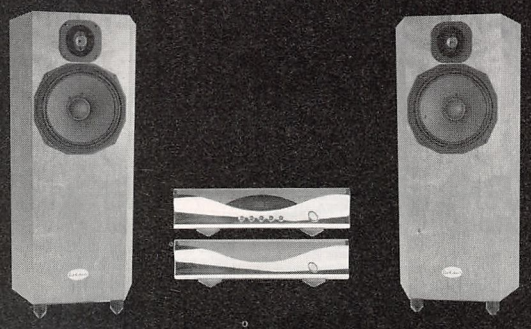
020 8318 5755

Speakers continued

£501-£1500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power ratings	Biwirable	Height width depth	Finishes
ART Illusion One	995	★★★★☆	Mar 02	Fine cultured speakers with well-balanced sound - best suited to smaller rooms.	fl	88	8	150	No	95.19.25	2
✪ ATC SCM12	1000	★★★★★	Jun 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Stunningly good buy, though they need a good amp.	st	84	8	300	Yes	39.22.26	2
ATC SCM10-2 Active	1269	★★★★★	Awd 01	Highly accomplished monitors that prove active speakers have much to offer.	st	-	-	A220	No	39.23.31	Sl
Audio Note AZ-Three	799	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Downright stunning when fed the right kind of music. Rockers may find they lack punch.	fl	94	6	100	Yes	100.28.32	Va
Audiovector C2	599	★★★☆☆	Jul 99	Pleasant, with much to admire, but low-end lacks control. Best suited to classical music.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	105.19.25	4
AVI Pro-Nine-Plus	800	★★★★★	Jun 03	Exceptional sound quality and solid build is enough to put them high on any shortlist.	bo	90	8	250	No	34.23.24	2
B&W CM2	550	★★★☆☆	Apr 03	Plus points aren't enough to merit an above-average rating, let alone worry class leaders.	st	89	8	120	Yes	33.20.28	3
B&W DM603 S3	600	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Highly listenable - upfront bass makes them ideal as the front of a home cinema system.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	91.20.29	3
B&W CM4	895	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Top technology and tasteful looks, but they only come to life at high volumes.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	91.20.29	2
B&W 705	900	★★★★☆	Awd 03	Immensely talented but they aren't balanced enough to challenge the class leaders.	st	89	8	120	Yes	42.22.32	5
B&W Nautilus 805	1400	★★★★☆	Apr 99	Gorgeous-looking and will impress with their seamless sound.	sb	88	8	120	Yes	42.24.34	3
Blue Room Minipods/Bass-Stat.	900	★★★☆☆	Apr 02	Minipods with an active sub - expensive on 'sound per pound' grounds.	st	90	4	100	No	3 units	Va
Boston Acoustics VR950	599	★★★☆☆	Jul 98	Smooth, powerful sound from slim cabinets but too bland to take on the competition.	fl	90	8	150	No	97.17.31	Gy
Boston Acoustics VR-M50	699	★★★★☆	Apr 01	Beautifully cohesive midrange and sweet treble but lower frequency reach is limited.	bo	89	8	150	Yes	25.18.23	2
Canton Ergo 900 DC	999	★★★★☆	Jun 03	Look like bruisers but have a refreshing lightness of touch when needed.	fl	88	4	170	Yes	103.23.31	5
Castle Conway 3	930	★★★☆☆	Oct 02	Promise much but don't have the sonic ability to challenge the best at this price.	fl	88	8	175	Yes	96.22.27	9
Castle Harlech S2	1000	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Good-looking and well-built, they major on speed and resolution.	fl	88	8	150	Yes	94.20.32	9
Castle Howard S3	1350	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Excellent craftsmanship and solid performance. Well worth an audition.	fl	88	8	175	Yes	99.21.32	9
Cyrus CLS70	850	★★★★☆	Jun 03	They're not flawless, but have strengths that'll make them a good long-term listen.	st	85	8	150	Yes	33.22.30	3
Dali Evidence 370	600	★★★☆☆	Nov 99	Adorable in appearance but they miss out sonically, lacking the cohesion of rival designs.	sb	87	5	150	Yes	37.21.26	2
Dali Evidence 470	1000	★★★★☆	Apr 00	Suffer from a slightly flat sound but deliver plenty of information and look stylish.	fl	90	4	200	Yes	97.22.31	3
Diapason Karis	1195	★★★★☆	Dec 99	Superbly built and sonically forgiving - sculpture and hi-fi can mix, take a listen.	st	87	6	80	Yes	29.19.26	Wn
Dynaudio Audience 52 (vinyl)	557	★★★★★	Apr 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Formidable array of talents - great with all music genres.	st	86	4	150	No	33.20.26	Bk
✪ Dynaudio Audience 52 (veneer)	624	★★★★★	Apr 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Great levels of details and a smart real-wood finish.	st	86	4	150	No	33.20.26	2
Dynaudio Audience 62	729	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Solid all-rounders but they lack the sparkle to take on the class leaders.	fl	86	4	150	No	86.20.26	5
Dynaudio Contour 1.1	879	★★★★☆	Dec 99	Diminutive size, their punchy and bass-loving nature will appeal to high-end rockers.	st	87	4	150	No	31.17.28	8
Dynaudio Audience 72	1100	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Deliver bass and dynamics in spades - give them a listen. Wrap on cabinets lacks class.	fl	86	4	210	No	96.20.26	4
Dynaudio Contour 1.3 MkII	1198	★★★★☆	Jul 00	Fine speakers, unfussy, and play all genres with equal ease.	st	87	4	150	No	38.20.29	8
Dynaudio Audience 82	1460	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Monster speakers that know the meaning of sensitivity. A rare breed.	fl	87	4	300	No	106.22.36	4
Epos M15	799	★★★★☆	Oct 02	For musical communication they are hard to fault and in the right system they will sing.	fl	88	8	100	Yes	82.20.25	3
Ethos Acoustics LS5/12B	1495	★★★★☆	Jul 00	Exacting and conjure up a surprising amount of bass weight. Need a little more soul.	st	83	8	130	Yes	30.19.21	Va
Faraday Siren	595	★★★★★	Nov 90	Big, ugly concrete cabinets but a rich, smooth, crisp, clear sound with hard-hitting bass.	st	90	4	80	Yes	46.27.25	Bk
Jamo D430	600	★★☆☆☆	Oct 03	Poor performers - just not up to the high standards of the competition.	st	88	4	140	No	34.21.31	3
Jamo D 830 (was Concert 8)	1249	★★★★★	Sep 99	Beautifully built and engineered, and delivering a superbly dynamic sound.	sb	90	4	120	Yes	38.24.31	Mh
JBL Ti2K	1000	★★★★★	Mar 00	A terrific design that looks great - offers a sound that astonishes for under £2000.	st	88	8	200	Yes	42.28.42	2
JM Lab Chorus 715	529	★★★☆☆	Dec 01	A very relaxing listen, but can prove lacklustre with uptempo tracks.	fl	91	8	125	No	93.20.27	Va
JM Lab Cobalt 806 C/T/S	549	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Packed with some cutting-edge ingredients but they can rob music of life.	st	90	8	75	Yes	88.22.27	Va
JM Lab Cobalt 816 C/T/S	899	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Will flatter rough recordings, but they need more attack and drive.	fl	91	8	125	Yes	98.22.30	Va
JM Lab Electra 906	1149	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Technology kings, but they don't have the all-round sonic ability to worry class leaders.	st	90	8	75	Yes	42.22.32	3
KEF Q5	600	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Worth considering but they're more suited to a home cinema role than music .	fl	91	8	150	Yes	88.24.32	3
KEF XQ One	1000	★★★★☆	Jun 03	Fall short of the best, but if their style appeals we'd urge you to take a listen.	st	89	8	120	Yes	42.23.31	5
Linn Katan	600	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Involving and entertaining performers that work well with a wide range of music.	st	85	8	N/A	Yes	34.17.23	4
Linn Ninka	995	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Unusual shape and beautifully finished but their sonic performance is only average.	fl	90	4	N/A	Yes	98.25.28	3
Meadowlark Swift	1000	★★★★☆	Jun 03	Not the best all-rounders but they have a blend of strengths that some people will love.	fl	89	8	100	No	91.24.18	3
Mission m53	550	★★★☆☆	Mar 03	Exciting with the right music but we wouldn't choose them for long-term listening.	fl	89	8	150	Yes	97.21.36	3
Mission 782	700	★★★★★	Oct 02	Terrific speakers and few rivals combine such a wide spread of talents so convincingly.	fl	89	8	200	Yes	80.17.30	3

unveiled... our NEW equipment range



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RATINGS

✪ Award winner

★★★★★ Supertest winner

★★★★★ Excellent

★★★★☆ Very good

★★★☆☆ Average

★★☆☆☆ Below par

★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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HI-FI SYSTEM SUPERDEALS!

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CD PLAYER
TECHNICS SLPG3
TSP £99.95

+

AMPLIFIER
CAMBRIDGE AUDIO A5 60 WPC
What Hi-Fi? ★★★★★ Awards '02 · Hi-Fi World ●●●● · Stuff ★★★★★
TSP £129.95

+

SPEAKERS
ELTAX MONITOR 3 90 WATTS
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THIS COMPLETE SYSTEM FOR ONLY
£199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

All basic connecting leads included

SYSTEM TSP £349.85

MARVELLOUS marantz mission SYSTEM

CD PLAYER
MARANTZ CD5400
TSP £149.95 What Hi-Fi? ★★★★★ Aug '03

+

AMPLIFIER
MARANTZ PM4400 30 WPC
TSP £159.95

+

SPEAKERS
MISSION M71i 75 WATTS
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NAD + Mordaunt-Short SYSTEM

GO NADS GO!

CD PLAYER
NAD C521BEE
TSP £199.95

+

AMPLIFIER
NAD C320BEE 50 WPC
What Hi-Fi? ★★★★★ Dec '02
TSP £249.95

+

SPEAKERS
MORDAUNT SHORT MS904 100 WATTS
TSP £249.95

£300 OFF TSP

THIS COMPLETE SYSTEM FOR ONLY
£399.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

All basic connecting leads included

SYSTEM TSP £699.85

And if you don't have room for a hi-fi seperates system (even though they sound better) here's 3 of the best all in one systems for under £200

DENON DM-31

Compatible speakers available from £14.95 per pair

What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine commented that this micro system "...produces a well balanced and weighty performance."
TSP £249.95 What Hi-Fi? ★★★★★ June '03

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! CALL!

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE! per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TEAC LEGACY 600

This slinky stereo is cute and compact, yet packs a punch that has to be heard to be believed!
TSP £249.95

£50 OFF TSP

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£199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

INCLUDING FREE REMOTE! per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

AIWA XRF-D55

This micro system from Aiwa comes complete with a CD player, MD recorder, tuner and tape deck. You can record from CD to MD in a fraction of the time.
TSP £299.95

£100 OFF TSP

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

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TDK FE90

SCOOP £1.00 OFF 29p

90 MINUTE TOP GRADE FERRIC TAPE
TSP £1.29

HIGH SPACE CDR80

SCOOP £2.10 OFF 39p

80 MINUTE CDR
TSP £2.49

TDK SA90

SALE £2.00 OFF 49p

90 MINUTE CLASSIC CHROME TAPE
TSP £2.49 WERE 59p

maxell CDRW74

SCOOP £4.00 OFF 49p

74 MINUTE CD-RW
TSP £4.49

TDK MD74

SCOOP £1.80 OFF 69p

74 MINUTE MD
TSP £2.49

TDK DVD+R

SALE £5.50 OFF £1.49

4.7GB/120 MIN. DVD+R
TSP £6.99 WERE ~~£1.99~~

maxell DVD-R

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RECORDABLE MEDIA NO MIN/ MAX 20 PER CUSTOMER

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OUR HUGE OPEN BOX SALE IS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

SUNDAY 16TH NOV 10-4PM, ONE DAY ONLY!

It's back by popular demand. For one day only we're clearing a huge selection of open box products at rock bottom prices.

We've learnt a lot from the first sale, so this time you'll have an even larger selection of products with bigger discounts. Umbrellas will be handed out if the weather decides to be unkind, hot refreshments will be served and we will be doing our utmost to make your wait as short and enjoyable as possible! We look forward to seeing you there!

(OPEN BOX = ex-display, mail order returns or ex-service products, thoroughly tested and re-sold with a FULL AS-NEW GUARANTEE.)

If you're not too fussed about the odd mark or missing accessory, these items represent incredible value for money and are priced accordingly to clear! So don't miss out on these never to be repeated offers!

WE'LL BEAT ANY COMPETITOR'S PRICE 'TIL IT HURTS!

We'll match any price and give you:

- Product up to £375 ..... £10
- Product from £375 to £1000 ... £25
- Product from £1000 to £3000 ..... £50
- Product over £3000 ..... £100

It is impossible to be 100% certain that we've the lowest in-store prices on absolutely everything we sell even though we have people permanently watching the competition.

We are certain, however, that if you 'phone around and it does exist at any competitor's store or on the web*, call us last and we'll cheerfully beat any lower price by up to £100 any time up to 7 days after purchase!

All we ask is that the hi-fi separates you're interested in are brand new and in stock at any local authorised dealer.

*Accredited/in stock/delivery charge added. Excl. special orders.

FREE VOUCHERS, GIFTS, CDs, CABLES & STANDS?

If anyone else is offering money off vouchers/discounts and free gifts/goods as part of the deal simply bring us their advert/voucher, we will not only honour this, but also beat their price likewise, by up to £100!!

AND GIVE YOU UP TO £100

WE ARE AUTHORISED DEALERS FOR EVERY PRODUCT WE SELL

and will even *match* any *unauthorised* dealers' price and offer full back-up on the product.

IMPORTANT NOTICE! Please note, our Price Beat is valid against all competitors' prices including on the web.

RICHER Sounds

SOME OF THESE OFFERS ARE EXCLUSIVE TO WHAT HI-FI? SOUND & VISION MAGAZINE READERS. PLEASE QUOTE THIS AD WHEN CALLING. NOT AVAILABLE ON-LINE. AVAILABLE FROM 16TH OCT. TO 19TH NOV. HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS IN STORE. ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT. SEE PAGE 6 OF THIS AD FOR OPENING TIMES. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, E&OE. ALL TRADEMARKS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED.

DOWN PRICES"

- WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION MAGAZINE

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BIGGEST HI-FI & HOME CINEMA RETAILER

AMPLIFIER MEGADEALS!

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

cambridge audio A1 V3

Picture Approximate

"Strong and effortless with a wide range of equipment… a bargain piece of hi-fi with a magic all of its own." said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine about the original A1. *TSP £99.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £69.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY TAF-E570

"As well suited to rock and dance as it is to classical or jazz… a fine buy." said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine of this marvellous Sony amplifier. *TSP £169.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Pioneer A109

Pioneer's products have made them one of biggest names around. Their A109 is a case in point: 40 watts per channel, and a sound quality that belies its meagre price tag guarantees success and a load of happy customers. *TSP £129.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

DENON PMA255UK

"This is an amp to get your head banging thanks to its razor-sharp timing and ability to capture rhythmic energy and detail to a superb degree", said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine. of this fine entry -level amp. *WERE £139.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

marantz PM4200

According to WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine, the Marantz PM4200 sounds "Well focused and natural" *TSP £159.95*

Also available new model PM4400 expected early Oct.

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

cambridge audio A5

Hi-Fi World ●●●●

Stuff ★★★★★

"Rich and powerful… it punches above its weight extraordinarily well" - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

YAMAHA AX396

Yamaha's latest entry-level amp, "has all the right credentials… it will go loud and deliver hefty bass when needed" according to WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £139.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

NAD C320BEE

"This amplifier has the ability to exert terrific grip over even wayward speakers. Basslines are rock-solid and punchy, while the mid-band and treble work together… convincingly" - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! CALL!

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

cambridge audio AZUR 540A

This Cambridge Audio amp is one of those special bits of hi-fi that manages to combine outstanding sound quality with movie star good looks.

Also available Azur 640A only £249.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

marantz PM7200

"This is one of the most powerful amps in it's class… and it sounds it …offering a delicious combination of poise and impact"- WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine. *TSP £329.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! CALL!

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TUNER PRICE CRASH!

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

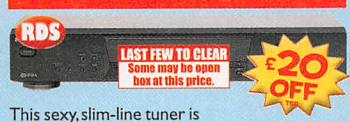
ARISTON TX510

An amazing deal on this Ariston tuner! Whether you love listening to the radio, or you need one to complete your system, this tuner deserves your serious consideration. *TSP £119.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £69.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY STSE370



This sexy, slim-line tuner is the latest in the Sony stable. The '370 comes fully equipped with three wave band tuning facility, RDS, and auto tuning. *TSP £99.95*

Also available Sony STSB920 only £119.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

ACOUSTIC SOLUTIONS SP110

The UK's cheapest full-sized DAB tuner. Get top quality radio stations with phenomenal sound quality for an all-time low price, or, as *Hi-Fi World* magazine put it "Superb value, easy to use and a bargain if you want digital radio for virtually nothing." *WERE £149.95 £119.95*

Also available with FM (SP111) only £99.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

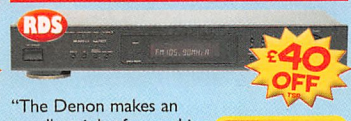
PURE EVOKE 1

"It's a cracking bit of kit" said *FHM* magazine, while *Total DVD* magazine commented "The sound is excellent." *OSP £99.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £79.95 GRADED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

DENON TU260L MKII



"The Denon makes an excellent job of everything from Radio 1's pop to speech on Radio 4" - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine. *TSP £129.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £88.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

cambridge audio DAB300

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ May '03

Hi-Fi World ●●●●

"I challenge anyone to find an analogue FM tuner that can come close to this…" - *Hi-Fi World* magazine. *WERE £149.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

cambridge audio DAB500

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Oct '03

"The Cambridge DAB500 is an excellent buy," said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine in the Awards issue, while giving this fab tuner one of their coveted 'Best Buy' badges.

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £149.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BIGGEST HI-FI & HOME CINEMA RETAILER

"UNBELIEVABLY LOW PRICES"
- Q MAGAZINE

TOO MANY BARGAINS!
There simply isn't space to list all our bargains here. If you can't find the model of your choice - including most
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★
please contact your local store or see our website. (Store details on page 6 of this ad)

CD PLAYER AND RECORDER BARGAINS!

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

Technics SLPG3

The Technics SLPG3 has all the power and precision that one could want, and it's fully equipped with an optical digital output, so it is the ideal partner for any digital recorder. *TSP £99.95 WERE £79.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY CDPXE570

WHAT HI-FI ★★★★★ Feb '02

"Musical and controlled, but with good punch and drive…it sounds clean and controlled" - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine. *TSP £139.95 WERE ~~£109.95~~*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

cambridge audio CD32

This superb CD player will play MP3 discs as well as CDs, and comes with all the sound quality one associates with this world-class manufacturer, all now available for this incredibly low price! *WERE ~~£99.95~~*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £49.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

PHILIPS CD713

We've managed to secure stocks of this incredible bargain from the inventors of CD technology at a ludicrous price. Complete with the ability to playback both recordable and rewritable CDs and all with a massive saving. *TSP £99.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

YAMAHA CDX496

LAST FEW TO CLEAR
Some may be ex-display at this price.

This fantastic CD player is the successor to the CDX493, a WHAT HI-FI? 'Product of the Year'. and has bags of quality. *WERE ~~£179.95~~*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

PHILIPS CDR600

"The CDR600 is fully featured, and simple to use." said *Hi-Fi Choice* magazine, so if you are looking for a CD recorder bargain, look no further! *TSP £229.95 WERE ~~£169.95~~*

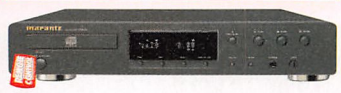
LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £149.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SONY RCDW3

"The RCDW3 is the first Sony CD recorder available in the UK, and given its great design, friendly price and ease of use, the wait has been worthwhile" - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine. *TSP £249.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £149.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

marantz CD5400



WHAT HI-FI ★★★★★ Aug '03

"The backbone of the Marantz's impressive delivery is the level of detail it uncovers. This means individual instruments are easy to follow and the overall performance sounds highly believable" - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! CALL!
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Pioneer PDR609

This Pioneer makes superb recordings which are close to the original in quality, and has an impressive array of features, including handy double-speed finalisation. *TSP £299.95 WERE ~~£229.95~~*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £169.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

NAD C521BEE

"The C521BEE turns in an extraordinarily accomplished performance…NAD's player emerges as a clear Award winner. Quite simply, budget CD players have never been this good" - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

CASSETTE DECKS

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

TEAC V377

This Teac has the quality of playback and recording one might expect of a cassette deck more than twice its price, so if you want top notch recording, but you're on a budget, this is the deck for you! *Stocks Limited.*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £69.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
SINGLE
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

ARISTON WX510

Yet another bargain piece of kit from Ariston features include noise reduction, high-speed dubbing and the ability to play chrome tapes. *WERE ~~£119.95~~*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
TWIN
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TEAC V615

Teac cassette decks have a great pedigree and this one is no exception. Built to make the very best quality recordings, this machine also plays back like a dream. *TSP £119.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
SINGLE
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TEAC W600R

Did you know that "Teac W600R" is an anagram of "Ace, two or 6"? Which is quite fitting since, not only does this *deck* hold all the *aces* with its *two* decks and *six*-point level meter. *TSP £119.95*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
TWIN
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Sherwood D480

The Sherwood D480 makes twin recording as easy pie! The handy one-touch recording system takes all the hard work out of calibrating the recording levels, so sit back and enjoy. *WERE ~~£199.95~~ ~~£149.95~~*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
TWIN
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

3 HEADS TEAC V1050

WHAT HI-FI ★★★★★ Sept '98

"Everything a home recording fan could reasonably ask for." - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine. *TSP £179.95 WERE ~~£139.95~~ ~~£129.95~~*

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
SINGLE
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

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THE WORLD'S BUSIEST RETAILER

Guinness Book of Records 1991 - 2002 editions

"HI-FI BARGAINS OF COLOSSAL PROPORTIONS!"

- HI-FI CHOICE MAGAZINE

RICHER Sounds

THE UK'S BIGGEST HI-FI & HOME CINEMA RETAILER

STANDMOUNT SPEAKERS

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

JPW ML310 (BLACK)

What Hi-Fi ★★★★★ Nov '97

"The bass… has striking weight for speakers so small" said What Hi-Fi Sound and Vision magazine, when reviewing these beauties at £89.95. Now they have been so substantially reduced, they are even better value for money! Don't delay, grab a pair today. TSP £89.95 WERE £69.95

£50 OFF TSP

Also available in beech (pictured) £49.95 pair

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £39.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

MISSION M71i (BLACK)

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

What Hi-Fi ★★★★★ Oct '02

"A thoroughly enjoyable system." - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine. TSP £129.95

Also available in beech only £59.95 pair

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £49.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TDL ELECTRONICS NUCLEUS 2 (BLACK)

SAVE £80

Recommended Hi-Fi Choice magazine

"...the Nucleus 2 offers solid value for money, and it deserves to be awarded a Recommended badge" - *Hi-Fi Choice* magazine. WERE £129.95

Also available in cherry (pictured) £59.95 pair

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £49.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

eltax MONITOR 3 (BLACK)

LESS THAN HALF PRICE FROM TSP

What Hi-Fi ★★★★★ Jan '01

"Grace, detail and musicality that belies the price tag" - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine. TSP £129.95

Also available in cherry (pictured) £69.95 pair

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

MISSION 771e (ROSEWOOD)

LAST FEW TO CLEAR

£120 OFF TSP

What Hi-Fi ★★★★★ Aug '00

"They're compact, finished nicely in real wood and are capable of excellent imaging" - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine. TSP £199.95 WERE £99.95

Also available in black £89.95 pair and cherry (pictured) £99.95 pair

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Wharfedale PPS1

£220 OFF TSP

"Look like picture frames and are highly musical." - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine. With a discreet subwoofer included you get a lot for your money. TSP £299.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED SET OF 3

1 set per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Mordaunt-Short MS902 SIG

AMAZING VALUE

The Signatures deliver excellent dynamics and superb stereo imaging. They are capable of transporting you in to the heart of your chosen piece of music in the blink of an eye - they're that good!

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

FLOORSTANDING SPEAKERS

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

eltax SYMPHONY 6.3

LAST FEW TO CLEAR Some may be ex-display at this price.

£190 OFF OSP

The Eltax Symphony 6.3 are the latest version of the award winning Symphony 6s, and show a marked improvement on their distinguished predecessors. Bass is thunderous, yet precise, and treble is lively. OSP £239.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £49.95 GRADED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

ES ACOUSTIC SOLUTIONS M100 (BLACK)

These powerful floorstanders have two bass cones and two rear firing bass ports for double the fun! TSP £139.95 WERE £119.95 £99.95 £79.95

£80 OFF TSP

Also available in beech £69.95 pair

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £59.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

JPW 203

These classy floorstander produce bags of bass, while retaining clarity and definition. They are now available at an astonishingly low price! OSP £249.95 WERE £119.95

£170 OFF OSP

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £79.95 GRADED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

KEF CRESTA 3

"The midrange produces vocals that simply ooze refinement." said What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine. TSP £249.95 WERE £119.95

What Hi-Fi ★★★★★ April '00

£150 OFF TSP

Also available in cherry £109.95 pair

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

eltax LIBERTY 5+ (BLACK)

"There are few rivals as rewarding at the price" - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine. TSP £199.95

What Hi-Fi ★★★★★ March '99

£80 OFF TSP

Also available in beech £129.95 pair

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

MISSION 773e

"Bass is well extended yet defined, the midrange is transparent and the treble has real sparkle." - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine. TSP £399.95 WERE £199.95

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

Recommended Hi-Fi Choice magazine

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Mordaunt-Short MS904

These 2 way rear-ported cabinets ensure a fast, tight bass, which can be further enhanced by ballast loading. From their elegant bass cones to their extended spiked feet, these beauties look almost as good as they sound.

AMAZING VALUE

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £249.95 BRAND NEW BOXED PAIR

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TURNTABLES

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

BUSH MTT1

What Hi-Fi ★★★★★ Feb '96

"This mini-sized turntable from Bush is a bargain." What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine. TSP £69.95

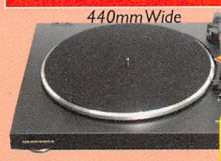
Also Bush MTT2 £79.95

£20 OFF TSP

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £49.95 BRAND NEW BOXED Inc. Cart

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

marantz TT42



£50 OFF TSP

Both deep and bassy, and elegantly detailed, this turntable is sure to please all. TSP £149.95 Stocks ltd: similar models available.

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED Inc. Cart

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Pro-Ject DEBUT 2

AMAZING VALUE

What Hi-Fi ★★★★★ Aug '02

"It's hard to argue with the Debut, just because it does so much for so little money." - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine.

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED Inc. Cart

1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

HEADPHONES

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

SENNHEISER HD580

With exceptionally natural, spatial and accurate sound, they are the ideal choice for the enthusiast, or for professional studio work. TSP £199.95 *Deal pending at time of going to press.*

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED! £99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED

1 pair per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

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RICHER Sounds

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BIGGEST HI-FI & HOME CINEMA RETAILER

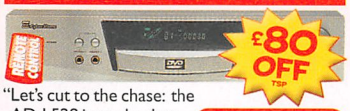
And if you don't want to buy any hi-fi, we've got the best deals on home cinema products!

DIGITAL FREEVIEW OFFER!
£80 OFF TSP
THOMSON DTI-500
Purchase any plasma screen, and this 30 channel Freeview box can be yours for this amazing price! TSP £99.95
SCOOP £19.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

DVD PLAYERS

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

Cyber Home ADL528



£80 OFF TSP

"Let's cut to the chase: the AD-L528 is an absolute bargain" said *What Video* magazine. TSP £129.95 WERE £99.95

BEST BUY · DVD · DVD+

Also last few to clear Wharfedale DVD750 only £29.95 graded

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£49.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

TOSHIBA SD330E

Best Buy 2003 · What Hi-Fi? ★★★★★ July '03

HALF PRICE FROM TSP

"The SD330E produces sharp edges, good blacks and decent contrast… it delivers a rich, highly watchable picture." - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine.
TSP £139.95 WERE £79.95

Also multi-region version only £79.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£69.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

YAMAHA DVDS540

£40 OFF TSP

It will playback just about any format that you care to throw at it, such as SVCD, VCD, JPEG and MP3. It also has progressive scan!
TSP £139.95

Also multi-region version only £119.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Panasonic DVDS75

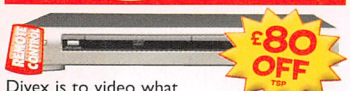
£80 OFF TSP

"In use this DVD player is slick…picture quality is impressively detailed for the money" said What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine of this accomplished DVD-Audio player. TSP £179.95

Also multi-region version only £119.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

eltax DV101

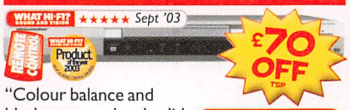


£80 OFF TSP

Divex is to video what MP3 is to audio. With this fantastic new DVD player, you can download movies and store them to disc – the DVD format is now more flexible than ever!
TSP £199.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Pioneer DV565A



What Hi-Fi? ★★★★★ Sept '03 · Product of the Year 2003

£70 OFF TSP

"Colour balance and blacks are good and solid and there's fine shadow definition." - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine.
TSP £249.95

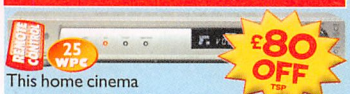
Also multi-region version only £199.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£179.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

RECEIVERS & AMPS

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

SONY SLV5



25 WPC · £80 OFF TSP

This home cinema receiver has all the Sony technical know-how, wrapped up in an ultra-slim line box, so, not only does it sound amazing, but it looks superb too!
TSP £179.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£99.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Pioneer VSXC100 (BLACK)

40 WPC · £80 OFF TSP

"Image placement is superb" - *What Video* magazine. TSP £199.95 WERE £179.95

What Hi-Fi? ★★★★★ June '02

Also available in silver £139.95

Also available Pioneer VSXC301 only £179.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£119.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

marantz SR4300

What Hi-Fi? ★★★★★ Mar '03 · 80 WPC · £150 OFF TSP

"The new SR4300 raises the stakes yet again… It has agility, verve and enough bass control to cope with fast-paced rock." - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine. TSP £349.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£199.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

YAMAHA DSPAX640SE

What Hi-Fi? ★★★★★ Sept '03 · 80 WPC · £100 OFF TSP

"The powerful amplification produces a muscular rendition that doesn't shy awar from full-blooded action scenes…" - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine. TSP £399.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£297.50 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

PORTABLE DVD

Panasonic DVDLS5

£100 OFF TSP

Also multi-region version only £329.95

This stylish portable DVD player is the perfect if you want top quality on the go! TSP £399.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£299.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

LCD TV

TOSHIBA 14VL43P 14 INCH SCREEN

£300 OFF TSP

BEST BUY · DIGITAL VIDEO & TV

This Toshiba flat screen is impressively devoid of flicker and background noise! TSP £699.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£399.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

FREEVIEW

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

GRUNDIG GDT1000

HALF PRICE FROM OSP

BEST BUY · DIGITAL VIDEO & TV

"The GDT1000 is quick to rig up and install… equally pleasing is the picture quality. Images are dynamic… you'll be extremely pleased" - *What Video* magazine.
OSP £99.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£49.95 GRADED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

SPEAKER PACKAGE

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

YAMAHA NSP100

£50 OFF TSP

Five quality speakers for just £79.95? Now that's what we call value for money! Grab a set while they last!
TSP £129.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£79.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

PLASMA SCREENS

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

RELISYS RP4205S PACKAGE

Price includes FREE tuner, stand and pair of speakers!

Also available LG MZ42PZ17 only £2299.95 and Hitachi PMA400 only £2499.95

This magnificent plasma screen from Relisys combines superb picture quality with versatility. "The Relisys does a nice job with black levels during dark scenes. Contrast is good and colours are realistic and vibrant" - *What Home Cinema* magazine.
TSP £2699.95

£600 OFF TSP

£2099.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
£1787.19 EX VAT
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

DVD SYSTEM

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

INCLUDES 5.1 AMP & DVD PLAYER

SONY DAVS550

£160 OFF TSP

"performs brilliantly" - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision mag. R2 Stocks Ltd.
TSP £399.95 WERE £299.95

Also multi-region version only £269.95

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£239.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

DVD RECORDER

MASSIVE RANGE IN STOCK!

PHILIPS DVDR70

£170 OFF TSP

"The DVDR70 does a good job of recording… and colours remain rich and vivid" - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision mag.
TSP £399.95 Stocks Ltd

Also Panasonic DRM-E50 at an amazing price!

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED!
£247.50 BRAND NEW BOXED
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

Pioneer PDP503HDE

MATCHING SPEAKERS IN STOCK ONLY £199.95 PER PAIR

£3500 OFF TSP

"This Pioneer delivers the most stunning plasma pictures ever." - *Home Cinema Choice* magazine. TSP £8499.95

£4999.95 BRAND NEW BOXED
£4255.28 EX VAT
INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL
1 per customer (Not in conjunction with any other offer/promotion)

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OUR STORES HAVE INDIVIDUAL OPENING HOURS. PLEASE CHECK BRANCH BOXES FOR EXACT OPENING TIMES. IF IN DOUBT ABOUT OPENING TIMES, OR STOCK AVAILABILITY PLEASE PHONE FIRST BEFORE MAKING A SPECIAL JOURNEY

YOU'RE ALWAYS PROTECTED WITH RICHER SOUNDS' "1-2" SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

1 - Lowest Price Guarantee
If, at any time within 7 days of your purchase from us, you find the identical item in stock and advertised at a lower price, we will fully protect you. Just bring in the ad, along with your receipt, and, once verified, we'll gladly refund the difference and give you up to £100! (see page 1 for further details).

2 - Satisfaction Guarantee
If you're not satisfied, neither are we. If, for any reason, you're not completely happy with your purchase, simply return it in its original condition within 14 days for an exchange. It's that simple. Just bring it back to any Richer Sounds store, along with your receipt, manual and all original packaging.

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD!

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RING OUR CALL CENTRE FOR A GUIDE TO STOCK AVAILABILITY

Due to variations in store sizes and our massive sales, inevitably stores occasionally run out of key lines. If you experience ANY problems getting hold of a particular item at your local branch, please call our General Stock Enquiry Line on:

0870 366 1296 (NATIONAL RATE)

who will try their best to locate the stock for you.

FOR ANY OTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE CALL CENTRE ON:

0870 900 1000 OR FAX **0870 900 1881** (NATIONAL RATE)

OR EMAIL: customerservices@richersounds.com

Calls will be answered in person 10-6pm Mon-Fri, 10-5pm Sats, Bank Holidays 12-4pm. Manager: Mark

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We offer a bulk purchase service for businesses (or other organisations) who are looking to buy our products. We currently supply Oddbins, Carphone Warehouse, Tie Rack and many other corporate accounts from schools to hospitals. We can include delivery and we are happy to arrange account facilities where requested (subject to status). Please call Ricky for further details on:

020 7407 9090 or email: corporatesales@richersounds.com

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PLEASE NOTE We quite frequently hear of our competitors (who are naturally frustrated at our prices) telling customers that the only reason we are so cheap is that our goods are either seconds, returns, stolen, secondhand etc... This is utter nonsense and simply sour grapes on their part - they must be desperate! If it were true it would be both illegal and hardly good customer relations, something we assure you we take very seriously.
A few of the products we sell are exclusive to us but this is only for proven product where we are able to purchase huge quantities, often direct from the factory, cutting out other retailers and the distributors' profit margin, thereby saving you typically 33%.
All stock is **BRAND NEW IN SEALED CARTONS** and full guaranteed for one year unless clearly stated otherwise. We are unable to guarantee that multi-region machines will play all future disc releases. Further upgrade may be required.

***TSP* = Typical Selling Price**
TSPs are based on information supplied by: WHAT HI-FI?, Manufacturer, *Hi-Fi Choice*, *Home Cinema Choice*, *T3*, *What Video*, *What DVD*, *Home Entertainment*, *Total DVD*, WHAT HI-FI? 'Stereo on the go' supplement & *DVD Buyer*. Further information available on request.

GRADED products refer to ex-display, mail order returns or ex-service products, thoroughly tested and re-sold with a full as new guarantee. Due to the varying sizes of our stores, not all goods may be stocked in all branches. Please call first if making a special journey. All stores have a clearance corner full of ex-demo / service and secondhand bargains and browsers are definitely welcome.

OSP denotes the original selling price.

IF WE HAVEN'T GOT IT - WE'RE SORRY Some of these offers are end-of-line clearouts and therefore by definition finite in supply the answer is don't delay!

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STORE No.	BRANCH LOCATION	BRANCH ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.	OPENING TIMES
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2	LONDON CHELSEA	258 Fulham Road, SW10 9EL	020 7352 8496	▲
3	LONDON CITY	1a New Street, EC2M 4TP	020 7626 8006	●
4	LONDON CROYDON	42 London Road, CR0 2TA	020 8667 1100	★
5	LONDON EALING	105 West Ealing Broadway, W13 9BE	020 8566 4422	★
6	LONDON FARRINGDON	6 Farringdon Street, Farringdon, EC4M 7LD	020 7329 7374	★
7	LONDON KINGSTON	72a Richmond Road, KT2 5EL	020 8549 9999	★
8	LONDON, LONDON BRIDGE	2 London Bridge Walk, SE1 2SX	020 7403 1201	★
9	LONDON SWISS COTTAGE	25 Northways Parade, College Crescent, NW3 5DN	020 7722 3359	■
10	LONDON WEST END	29 Bloomsbury Way, WC1A 2SL	020 7831 2888	◆
11	BELFAST	7 Smithfield Square North, BT1 1DD	028 9032 1332	■
12	BIRMINGHAM	10-12 Smallbrook Queensway, B5 4EN	0121 643 1516	★
13	BOURNEMOUTH	543 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, BH1 4AH	01202 720 380	▲
14	BRIGHTON	54 London Road, BN1 4JE	01273 673 333	◆
15	BRISTOL	143 Whiteladies Road, BS8 2QB	0117 973 4397	★
16	CAMBRIDGE	25 Hills Road, CB2 1NW	01223 304 848	▲
17	CARDIFF	106 Cowbridge Road East, Canton, CF11 9DX	029 2039 9988	◆
18	CHELTENHAM	31 The High Street, GL50 1DY	01242 572 572	▲
19	CHESTER	The Old George, Black Diamond Street, CH1 3EX	01244 400 102	□
20	COLCHESTER	17 Saint Botolphs Street, Colchester, CO2 7DU	01206 56 31 31	▲
21	COVENTRY	146 Lower Ford Street Coventry, CV1 5PQ	024 7655 5959	▲
22	EDINBURGH	1b Chambers Street, EH1 1HR	0131 226 3544	◆
23	EXETER	89 Sidwell Street, EX4 6PH	01392 272 772	□
24	GLASGOW	57 Jamaica Street, G1 4NN	0141 226 5551	★
25	GUILDFORD	8 London Road, GU1 2AF	01483 449 222	★
26	HULL	55 Ferensway, HU2 8NA	01482 329 289	▲
27	LEEDS	117-121 Vicar Lane, LS1 6PJ (RELOCATED)	0113 245 5717	◆
28	LEICESTER	163 London Road, LE2 1EG	0116 255 4656	◆
29	LIVERPOOL	1-5 Berry Street, L1 9DF	0151 708 7484	◆
30	MAIDSTONE	21-23 Earl Street, Kent, ME14 1PL	01622 67 70 67	▲
31	MANCHESTER NORTH	415-419 Bury New Road, Prestwich, M25 1AA	0161 773 0333	★
32	MANCHESTER SOUTH	58 Lower Hillgate, Stockport, SK1 3AL	0161 480 1700	★
33	MIDDLESBROUGH	55-57 Borough Road, TS1 3AA	01642 211 115	▲
34	MILTON KEYNES	556 Elder House, Eldergate, MK9 1LR	01908 608 908	□
35	NEWCASTLE	94-96 Clayton Street, NE1 5PG	0191 230 1392	★
36	NORWICH	113-119 Ber Street, NR1 3EY	01603 620 860	▲
37	NOTTINGHAM	108 Mansfield Road, NG1 3HD	0115 924 1551	★
38	OXFORD	12 Park End Street, OX1 1HH	01865 243 444	★
39	PLYMOUTH	87-89 Exeter Street, PL4 0AH	01752 222 256	★
40	PRESTON	2 Lancaster Rd, Preston PR1 1DA (NEW)	01772 888 757	◆
41	READING	114 Oxford Road, RG1 7NE	0118 959 1111	◆
42	ROMFORD	73 Main Road, Gidea Park, Essex, RM2 5EP	01708 747 727	◆
43	SEVENOAKS	London Road, TN13 2JD	01732 456 573	□
44	SHEFFIELD	130 Whitham Rd, Broomhill, S10 2SN	0114 266 1616	★
45	SOUTHAMPTON	77 London Road, SO15 2AA	023 8023 1311	★
46	STOKE ON TRENT (HANLEY)	Unit 4, The Quadrant, Town Road, Hanley, ST1 2QD	01782 289 009	▲
47	SWINDON	119 Commercial Rd, SN1 5PL (RELOCATED)	01793 612 652	□
48	WATFORD	117c St.Albans Road, WD1 1RD	01923 218 888	★

KEY:

- □ 12-7 Mon-Fri/Closed Wed/ 10-5 Sat/12-4 Bank Holidays
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(Calls cost £1 per minute from BT land-lines)

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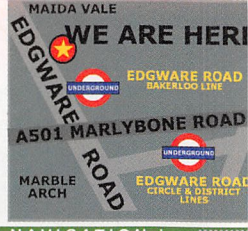

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What Video Best Buy - January 2003

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- 2 Video Inputs

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- Active Subwoofer
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- SACD Multi Channel / MP3 Playback
- Total 600W: 100W x 5 + 100W RMS
- S-Master Digital Amplifier.

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- 3 piece mini systems consisting of PMA-201 Amp, TU-201 Tuner, DCD-201 CD Player
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- Full timer & alarm functions
- RDS Tuner with 40 presets

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Wireless One-body Rear Speaker System

- DVD Home Cinema System
- 500 W, MP3/WMA/ DVD-RW compatible
- DPL II, D/D, DTS surround, RDS tuner
- EURO-scart, audio/video output

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- RDS Radio
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- DVD-R, CD-R/RW Playback
- MP3 Playback
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- SRS True Surround

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- Progressive scan video output with four available modes

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SONY MHC-WZ8D

- 320W RMS (10% THD)
- Single DVD
- Dolby Digital/Dolby Prologic 2/DTS
- MP3 Playback
- 5 Speakers (100W x 2 + 40W x 3)

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YAMAHA DVX-S100

- Receiver/DVD Player
- DVD Audio, DVD Video, CD and MP3 Playback
- 5.1 Channel Surround
- Four Satellite Spkrs
- Center Speaker
- Powered Subwoofer

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TEAC LEGACY 800

High performance DVD Player Progressive Scan (DV-L800), supreme home theatre A/V Reciever (AG-L800) with LCD Remote (RC-L800) and aluminium 6-spkr system (LS-L800)

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- 5 x 25w Amp for Sat and Centre 185w Total System Power
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HARMAN-KARDON AVR-4550	£PHONE
HARMAN-KARDON HD-750	£PHONE
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MARANTZ SR-4200	£PHONE
MARANTZ SR-5200	£PHONE
MARANTZ SR-5300	£PHONE
MARANTZ SR-6200	£PHONE
MARANTZ SR-8200	£PHONE
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PANASONIC SA-XR25	£289.99
PANASONIC SA-XR45	£329.99
PIONEER VSA-AX10i	£PHONE
PIONEER VSA-D511	£PHONE
PIONEER VSA-D712/812/912	£149.99
PIONEER VSX-5i	£949.99
SONY STR-DE485	£139.99
SONY STR-DE585	£179.99
SONY STR-DE685	£189.99
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YAMAHA RX-V640	£369.99
YAMAHA RX-V730RDS	£349.99
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PANASONIC SC-ST1S	£769.99
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PIONEER NSDV77/DV88	£299.99
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SONY..... FULL RANGE IN STOCK	£PHONE
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HARMAN/KARDON DVD-21	£PHONE
HARMAN/KARDON DVD-25	£PHONE
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PANASONIC DMR-HS2	£699.99
PANASONIC DMR-S75	£129.99
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PHILIPS DVD-R70/R75	£PHONE
PIONEER DV-360	£99.99
PIONEER DV-565A	£199.99
PIONEER DV-757AI	£549.99
SONY DVP-NS330	£109.99
SONY DVP-NS905	£289.99
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PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power ratings	Biwirable	Height width depth	Finishes
Mission 782SE	900	★★★★★	Jun 03	'Special edition' - quite possibly the most talented floorstanders a grand or so will buy.	fl	89	6	200	Yes	80.17.30	Ald
Mission 783	1000	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Can bang out the bass with the best, but are subtle-sounding too.	fl	90	6	200	Yes	97.21.32	3
Monitor Audio Silver S6	600	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Have many strengths but the bass can dominate the highly articulate treble.	fl	91	6	120	Yes	85.19.25	4
Monitor Audio Gold Ref. 10	799	★★★★★	Aug 01	Few speakers just 36cm tall are capable of a sound with quite so much conviction.	st	88	8	100	Yes	36.20.27	4
Monitor Audio Silver S8	800	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Smart and well built - offer a wide dynamic range but the bass can overwhelm.	fl	91	6	175	Yes	90.19.27	4
Monitor Audio Gold Ref. 20	1499	★★★★★	Mar 01	Immensely accomplished speakers - fast and dynamic sound with bags of resolution.	fl	89	6	150	Yes	93.20.30	4
Neat Critique	545	★★★★☆	Sep 98	Highly enjoyable-sounding speakers, they get straight to the heart of the music.	st	86	8	100	Yes	33.23.22	2
Neat Mystique 2 (Cherry)	795	★★★★☆	Jul 98	Clean, crisp and coherent - particularly adept with lighter musical styles.	fl	86	8	150	Yes	84.20.18	2
Neat Elite	1275	★★★☆☆	Jul 00	Not bad speakers but they have too many flaws to make an impact.	fl	87	8	150	Yes	90.20.18	2
Opera SP-1	575	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Gorgeous speakers with an involving and entertaining performance.	sb	86	8	60	No	29.16.23	3
PMC DB1	555	★★★★☆	Sep 03	Impressive amount and depth of bass for their size, but the treble can lack openness.	st	87	8	150	Yes	29.16.23	Va
PMC TB2	700	★★★★☆	Awd 01	Great speakers, wonderful integration, but slightly lacking in low-level dynamics.	st	90	8	150	Yes	40.20.30	Va
PMC FB1	1410	★★★★★	Awd 00	Amazing speakers - these slim columns are exciting, controlled and yet a total riot.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	100.20.30	Va
ProAc Studio 125	999	★★★★☆	Jun 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Remain a solid buy, but are no longer at the cutting edge.	fl	89	8	150	Yes	92.28.20	Va
Quadral Aurum-3	900	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Refined and informative, but not one that inspires on bass-driven music.	st	86	8	90	Yes	40.19.29	Va
Rega Ela	749	★★★☆☆	Mar 03	Lightweight and expensive - lack the punch and power to fight off their rivals.	fl	88	8	N/A	No	80.20.30	2
Roksan ROK One	595	★★★★☆	Nov 96	Deliver a natural sense of space that stands quite apart from the £600 crowd.	st	89	8	100	Yes	44.21.34	3
Roksan Ojan 3X	1400	★★★★☆	Dec 98	An engaging listen and brilliant bass performance; a must-hear for medium-sized rooms.	fl	88	8	250	Yes	76.28.46	Rw
Ruark Acoustics Etude	650	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Much to like - good timing, refined midrange and an exciting listen.	st	87	8	120	Yes	34.21.27	4
Ruark Acoustics CL10	900	★★★☆☆	Awd 01	Good, but the unexciting dynamics and occasionally over-exuberant bass let them down.	sb	87	6	150	Yes	35.23.28	Va
Ruark Acoustics Prelude II	900	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Tempting propositions, their involving performance promises years of enjoyment.	fl	88	8	120	Yes	88.21.22	Va
Sonus Faber Concertino	599	★★★★★	Aug 96	An orgy of walnut and leather, airy Concertinos sing and sound as special as they look.	st	86	8	120	Yes	22.32.29	2
Sonus Faber Concerto Home	999	★★★★☆	Jul 01	Major on insight, worth the effort to partner sympathetically on the basis of sound.	st	88	6	200	No	36.24.32	2
Spendor S3	599	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Ideal if you worship refinement and a cracking solution for smaller listening rooms.	sb	85	8	80	Yes	31.17.19	4
Spendor SR5	1000	★★★★★	Jun 03	Wallmounts that sacrifice nothing in sonic performance to traditional speakers.	wl	88	8	125	Yes	31.31.18	4
Spendor S6	1300	★★★★★	Jul 02	Classy looking and excellent all-rounders - well worth a long, serious listen.	fl	88	8	100	Yes	87.20.30	4
Spendor SP2/3E (Classic)	1495	★★★★★	Jul 00	Special speakers - will delight with their combination of naturalness, insight and scale.	st	88	8	80	Yes	54.27.32	2
T+A Criterion TAL90	900	★★☆☆☆	Jan 03	Interesting, if gimmicky - and sound strangely detached when used with the K1 system.	st	90	4	90	No	37.21.31	6
Tannoy Revolution R3	550	★★★★★	Feb 00	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Involving and refined, they put music first.	fl	89	6	170	Yes	102.18.27	Ch
Tannoy Eyris 1	600	★★★☆☆	Apr 03	Eye-catching design, but their cold character will leave you unmoved.	st	88	8	75	Yes	36.17.26	2
Tannoy ST50 (Super Tweeter)	600	★★★★★	Dec 02	Super-high-frequency speakers, designed to perch on your existing pair.	-	93	8	200	No	15x10cm	Bk
Tannoy Sensys DC2	649	★★★★★	Aug 03	Fully able to slam out big, heavyweight rock and are just as capable with classical music.	fl	89	8	175	Yes	97.21.29	Mp
Tannoy Eyris 2	1000	★★★★☆	Feb 02	Fine buy, combining refined sound, solid build and excellent finish.	fl	87.5	8	95	Yes	91.17.26	2
Triangle Zerius 202	705	★★★★★	Mar 02	Lively and communicative, their sparkling performance will make many seem bland.	fl	92	8	100	Yes	101.22.30	3
Vienna Acoustics Haydn	650	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Belting build and great with classical but they lack the boogie factor.	st	89	6	180	No	34.17.25	6
Vienna Acoustics Sch^nberg	1500	★★★★☆	Jun 03	Surprising but highly impressive - look like nothing else, but sound very coherent.	fl	91	4	200	No	105.27.9	Al
Wharfedale Evolution-30	650	★★★★★	Mar 03	Combine floorstander bass depth with standmounter control - a match made in heaven.	fl	89	6	200	Yes	88.23.40	3

£1501 and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power ratings	Biwirable	Height width depth	Finishes
ART Skibo/Skibo bass module	1600	★★★☆☆	Aug 03	Adding the bass module transforms the Skibo into a floorstander but it's not £800 better.	fl	90	8	80	Yes	108.19.25	2
ART Expression (plus stands)	4000	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Terrific speakers that can unravel a recording with ease. Deserve to be shortlisted.	st	88	8	100	No	42.20.30	Va
ATC ACM35	2000	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Without doubt these are very good speakers, but they do take some driving.	fl	85	8	300	Yes	86.23.30	2
B&O Beolab 8000	2150	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Tall, slender and organ-piped shaped - fine-sounding with the BeoSound 9000 system.	fl	-	-	A80	No	132.15.15	Al
B&W Signature 805	2500	★★★★★	Feb 03	Small and pricey but worth it - one of the most impressive B&W designs we've heard.	st	88	8	120	Yes	42.24.34	2
B&W Nautilus 801	8500	★★★★★	Jan 99	An impressive speaker that possesses an enviable combination of talents.	fl	91	8	1000	Yes	111.52.69	3
BC Acoustique Nil	3140	★★★★★	Aug 99	Standmounter-style refinement and the scale and power of floorstanders.	fl	93	4	150	Yes	125.34.43	Mp
Beauhorn B2	3575	★★★★☆	Mar 02	Stunning horn speakers.Their idiosyncratic design has addictive strengths.Tested at £244!	fl	98	8	30	No	120.34.67	2
Beauhorn Virtuoso Reference	7800	★★★★☆	Aug 00	In some respects they approach the status of true genius. Tested at £6970.	fl	106	8	30	No	104.34.67	2
Cyrus Icon X4	2700	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Prove that flat-panel technology really can compete with conventional speakers.	fl	84	6	150	Yes	125.34.30	Mp
Diapason Adamantes Ltd Ed	3995	★★★★★	Feb 98	Beautiful to behold, these Italian speakers are also a sheer delight to listen to.	st	91	6	100	Yes	37.24.38	Wn
Eclipse TD 512	1750	★★★★★	May 02	Egg-shaped, partnered with the A502 amp they make a great package.(Tested at £2350).	st	81	6	30	No	29.37.36	Bk
Ferguson Hill FH 001	6950	★★★☆☆	Jul 03	Stunning looking acrylic horn speakers - shame the performance doesn't match.	fl	100	8	30	No	165.92.75	Ac
Harbeth Super HL5	1999	★★★★★	May 03	Lookers they're not - but when they sing, few rivals can match them.	st	85	8	150	Yes	64.32.30	2
JBL Ti6K	1750	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Stylish speakers with some strong qualities but they lack cohesion.	fl	90	6	300	Yes	110.38.53	2
KEF XQ Five	2000	★★★☆☆	May 03	Looks great but they aren't the sonic stars we expected - the Reference range does better.	fl	90	8	150	Yes	101.23.30	5
KEF Reference Model 203	3000	★★★★★	Sep 02	Simply excellent - superb all-round sonic performance and fine build and finish.	fl	89	8	200	Yes	107.25.41	3
Living Voice Air Scout	24500	★★★★★	Sep 97	Huge horn speakers which redefine dynamics to really put you in the sound picture.	fl	105	8	100	Yes	114.63.57	2
Meridian DSP33	2595	★★★★☆	Oct 00	Terrific concept that works extremely well in practice.	st	-	-	A50	No	40.15.23	Bk
✪ PMC OB1	2450	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Spectacular, controlled and highly musical.	fl	87	6	300	Yes	103.20.33	3
PMC IB1	3900	★★★★★	Apr 01	Revealing and enjoyable in equal doses and will please bass fiends everywhere.	st	89	4	500	Yes	74.33.47	Va
ProAc Response D15 (Yew)	1970	★★★★★	Nov 02	Musically involving presentation and superlative build - take a good long listen.	fl	88	8	180	Yes	98.19.25	Va
ProAc Future 0.5	3500	★★★★★	Jun 02	Look a little odd, but these are stunning, front ranking speakers at this price point.	fl	87	8	150	Yes	101.44.22	Va
Quad ESL-988	3500	★★★★★	Dec 00	World class - the single driver presents a fabulously together sound few rivals can match.	fl	86	8	N/A	No	94.67.32	Bk
Revel Ultima Gem	5895	★★★★★	Mar 98	No other speakers look or sound like these - nothing else will keep you so entertained.	st	87	6	200	Yes	50.23.44	Va
Ruark Acoustics Solstice	4500	★★★★★	Awd 98	Few speakers under £5000 can rival the Solstices' blend of power and poise.	fl	89	8	250	Yes	114.26.42	Va
Ruark Acoustics Excalibur	8000	★★★★★	Jan 99	Superbly well conceived and executed with genuine ability to communicate emotions.	fl	90	4	300	Yes	125.30.53	Va

RATINGS

✪ Award winner

★★★★★ Supertest winner

★★★★★ Excellent

★★★★☆ Very good

★★★☆☆ Average

★★☆☆☆ Below par

★☆☆☆☆ Poor

KEF · CHORD · ProAc perfectly natural · Pro-Ject · QUAD · Panasonic · McLaren · NAD

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Unilet Sound and Vision

The Hidden Hi-Fi Store

Speakers continued

£1501 and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Sensitivity	Impedance	Power ratings	Biwirable	Height width depth	Finishes
Snell XA 90	7567	★★★☆☆	Nov 99	Supremely powerful bass masters, but lack refinement in upper frequencies.	fl	90	4	300	Yes	138.28.5(	2
Spendor S8e	1850	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Easy to drive and give a sophisticated, pleasing sound, but they could do with more clout.	fl	89	8	300	Yes	95.23.32	4
TAG McLaren F1 AvantGarde	19995	★★★★★	Oct 00	Breathtaking - they prove beyond doubt that their amazing shape is no gimmick.	fl	87	6	350	No	127.40.4[illegible]	Va
Wilson Benesch Arc	2400	★★★★★	Feb 02	Stunning - the very best of Wilson Benesch speaker magic in a pint-pot design.	st	88	6	200	Yes	31.23.37	10
Wilson Benesch Discovery	5495	★★★★★	Apr 01	Innovative speakers for the music lover - appeal to the ears, eyes and heart.	fl	87	6	200	Yes	108.23.27	Gr

KEY | **Type** What kind? fl=floorstanders, st=standmount, bo=bookshelf, sb=stand or bookshelf. **Sensitivity** in decibels for one Watt (dB/W/m).The higher the number, the easier they are to drive. Impedance In ohms – the lower the number, the tougher the load the speakers present to an amp. **Power rating** Maximum amp power suggested. A is Active. **Biwirable** Can they be biwired (see Glossary)? **Height Width Depth** Will they fit? In cms. **Finishes** The number of finishes available or Bk=Black, BA=Black Ash, Ch=Cherry, Gy=Grey, Gp=Graphite, Mh=Mahogany, Wt= White or Va= Various

Micro systems

Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	CD	DVD	MiniDisc/CD-R	Tuner	Tape	Headphones	Speakers
Alba SYS2000CD	50	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	It's not hi-fi but it will provide many kids with years of fun.	2	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
✪ Denon D-M31	300	★★★★★	Jun 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. This is an absolute stunner.	22	1	0		Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Denon D-M50	349	★★★★★	Jan 01	Offers wonderful sound, stylish aesthetics and some genuinely useful features.	30	3	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
JVC FS-X3R	200	★★☆☆☆	Oct 03	Teeny size makes it perfect for teeny spaces. Sadly it sounds as small as it looks.	30	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
JVC UX-A52R	200	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Fun design, good build and offers a decent sound, but it isn't going to rock your world.	20	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Onkyo CS-210	295	★★★★☆	Sep 03	A step above most micro system, but it can't quite match its main Denon rival.	20	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Panasonic SC-PM28	180	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	King of features making it ideal for parties, but invasive treble is an unwelcome guest.	35	5	0		Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Philips MC-90	400	★★★★★	Nov 02	Superior sound quality and exemplary copies onto CD-R/RW make this a very fine system.	25	3	0	C	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Sharp XL-HP500E	140	★★★★☆	May 03	Highly enjoyable listening experience at a very reasonable price.	50	3	0		Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Sharp XL-HP700H	180	★★★★★	Oct 03	From CD to radio to tape this Sharp sounds full and fun. At this price it is a cracker.	100	3	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Yamaha PianoC CRX-E300/N300	300	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Looks good but has a hefty price tag and its performance can't match the Denon D-M31.	25	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes

KEY | **Power** The power per channel the manufacturer quotes. Bear in mind these figures can tend to be rather 'creative' CD 1 means it's a single-disc player, larger numbers show how many discs can be loaded. **DVD** Some systems now use a DVD player instead of a CD player, and this trend may grow. **MiniDisc/CD-R** Does the system have a digital recorder built in? If so, M=MiniDisc, C=CD-R. or H=Hard disk built in. **Speakers** Are they included in the price as shown? Opt means speakers are optional.

Mini systems

Up to £300

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	CD	DVD	MiniDisc/CD-R	Tuner	Tape	Headphones	Speakers
JVC HX-Z3R	300	★★★☆☆	May 03	Lacks subtlety so would be ideal at a party but it's really not suitable for everyday use.	50+100	3	0	C	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
Ministry of Sound MN008	180	★★★★☆	May 03	Sound for pound, this is one of the better mini systems around.	50	3	0	-	Yes	2	Yes	Yes

KEY | **Power** The power per channel the manufacturer quotes. Bear in mind these figures can tend to be rather 'creative' CD 1 means it's a single-disc player, larger numbers show how many discs can be loaded. **DVD** Some systems now use a DVD player instead of a CD player, and this trend may grow. **MiniDisc/CD-R** Does the system have a digital recorder built in? If so, M=MiniDisc, C=CD-R. or H=Hard disk built in. **Speakers** Are they included in the price as shown? Opt means speakers are optional.

Style systems

Up to £900

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	CD	DVD	MiniDisc/CD-R	Tuner	Tape	Headphones	Speakers
Bush CDP2025/AMP2025	180	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Separate CD player and amp (there is a matching tuner) - good value and it sounds great.	40	1	0	-	No	0	Yes	No
✪ Denon D-F101	450	★★★★★	Feb 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Blurs the distinction between micro and serious hi-fi.	35	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	No
Denon 201SA	800	★★★★★	Aug 02	Stylish, listenable mini system that sounds almost as good as it looks.	50	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
JVC VS-DT2000R	400	★★☆☆☆	Jan 03	Truly innovative design, both in style and technology but very disappointing sound.	15	1	0	C	Yes	0	Yes	Yes

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★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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"NAD amps are solidly engineered. This is a 60w per channel amp with a pretty hefty output stage, making it capable of 135w a side into 4ohms and 240w into 2ohms. The result is a sound that's extremely big, rich and effortless, but at the same time manages to maintain high levels of detail and information. The NAD amp offers a good combination of specification, doing more in every respect than you'd expect from its £340 price. We like it." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep 02**

2x 60Watts RMS into 8 ohms • 5x Line Inputs • 2x Tape In/Out • Tone Controls • Headphone Socket • Remote Control

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ SEP 02

~~WAS £339.99~~

£169.99 Ex display model

1/2 PRICE AMPLIFIER ★★★★★ WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

MEGA DEAL CD PLAYER

★★★★★ WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

NAD C541i ~~WAS £329.99~~

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUG 03

MEGA DEAL

" NAD dominated the CD player category of the 2002 Awards with the C541i winning the Product of the Year. The NAD C541i was the test winner beating the Arcam CD62T and the Rotel RCD-02. This is a remarkable player, a real bargain at just £330. It sounds like it costs a lot more."

What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 03

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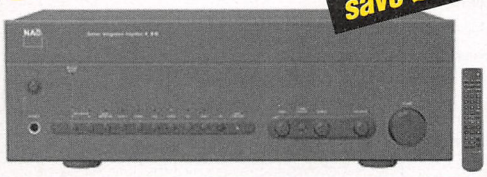
£199.99 Ex display model

MEGA DEAL NAD C370



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"this is one amazing piece of hi-fi. Your £449 for the NAD C370 gets you 120watts a side into 8ohms, rising to 450watts into 2ohms to handle the dynamics of real music – in a cost effective package, complete with plenty of inputs, remote and even tone controls. Another dynamite amp from NAD. Product of the Year Awards 2001. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep 01**

2x 120Watts RMS into 8 ohms • 5x Line Inputs • 2x Speaker Outputs

2x Tape In/Out • Tone Controls • Headphone Socket • Remote Control

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ SEP 01

~~WAS £449.99~~

£249.99 Ex display model

MEGA DEAL AMPLIFIER ★★★★★ WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

1/2 PRICE MISSION SPEAKERS

★★★★★ WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

Mission 781 ~~WAS £499.99~~

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JAN 01

1/2 PRICE

"Run them in and they produce a sound of grand scale and dynamics, as well as a truly seismic bass response, resulting in a performance that's big , bold and powerful. The integration between the 25mm silk dome tweeter and the 165mm Keraform mid/bass driver is excellent, giving the 781s a marvellously transparent midrange. The sheer scale of the sound is amazing – without sacrificing any subtle details." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jan 01**

Superb Quality Standmount Speakers • 175watts Power Handling

2 way - 165mm Keraform Mid/Bass Driver Plus 25mm Silk Dome Tweeter • Biwirable • Sensitivity 88db • 8 Ohms

350x310x210mm • Deluxe Black Ash Real Wood Veneer

Save £250

£249.99

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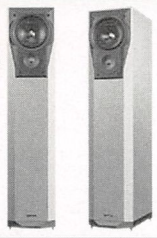

Mission 783 ~~WAS £999.99~~

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUL 01

"There's loads of technology packed into the 783s' elegant form. It's a three way design with the low frequency driver side-firing near the base of the speaker. But it's musical performance that counts, and in this respect the 783s hit the spot: they will take all that the amp can throw at them, the result being chest-thumping bass with impressive power. They manage to do a great many things incredibly well: this is yet another excellent Mission 78-series product". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jul 01**

Superb Quality Floorstanding Speakers • 200watts Power Handling

3 way - 165mm Keraform Mid Driver, 200mm Base Plus 25mm Silk Dome Tweeter • Biwirable • Sensitivity 90db • 6 Ohms

970x320x210mm • Deluxe Rosewood Real Wood Veneer

Save £500

£499.99

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1/2 PRICE TOSHIBA WIDESCREEN

★★★★★ WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

Toshiba 32ZD26P

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What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 02

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★★★★★ WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

KEF REFERENCE ONE-TWO

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1/2 PRICE

When WHAT HI*FI? Sound and Vision held a Superbest in October 2001 with the KEF Reference Model One-Two against some of the best from B&W, Castle, Dynaudio, Epos, Linn, Mission and ProAc this is what they said:- "There are no bad speakers in this test. Indeed they all prove their worth over lower-priced designs in the £500-£600 bracket. Its only the quality of the competition here that stops them rating higher. The KEF One-Two's are consistently strong right across the board, from build and finish to sonic performance: as all-round performers they merit number one position in this test. These KEF's are deeply impressive; there's nothing to criticise."

WHAT HI*FI? Sound and Vision Oct 01

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ALBA DVD-103

"Does everything you could reasonably expect, and it costs just £150. And THAT'S SENSATIONAL." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Oct 00**

Dolby digital 5.1 & DTS 5.1 • CD & CDR replay RGB • Scart • S VideoCoax/optical outputs 2 analogue

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save £100

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TOSHIBA SD-230

"Best Buy in the Awards 2002, Fantastic picture, and it's also a fine little tune tool". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 02**

Superb DVD Video Player • RGB • Scart • CD-R Replay Coax Digital out • Full Remote Control

1/3 PRICE

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUG 02

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~~WAS £159.99~~

WHARFEDALE M3

"A fine machine for the price; well-equipped with good sound and vision. It plays DVDs, CDs, CD-R/RW discs and CDs containing MP-3 encoded music. We are talking about a £100 player and for that sort of money the Wharfedale must be seen as a major bargain. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Feb 03**

Superb Slimline DVD Player • DVD Audio/Video • 5.1 Decoder Built In Scart • RGB • Coax and Optical Digital Output • Full remote Control

MEGA DEAL

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ FEB 03

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£59.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £99.99~~

YAMAHA VS-10

CINEMA STATION

"VS-10 will give you all you need for great sound – just connect your TV and a DVD player and your ready to enjoy the spectacular quality of Dolby Digital and DTS movies." **Yamaha Electronics Oct 02**

Full Scale 5.1 Channel Sound • Dolby Digital • DTS 12 Surround Programs • 50 Watts Output Remote Control

1/5 PRICE

save £330

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PIONEER VSX-D511

"The VSX-D511 is the entry model to the award winning 2003 range of A/V receivers; prepare yourself for the future of sound with this model." **Pioneer Europe NV Mar 03**

5x 80 Watts Output • Full Scale 5.1 Channel Sound plus an additional virtual Channel to enjoy the latest 6.1 Channel formats • Surround Mode 5-6-7 Channel Dolby Pro Logic 11 • Dolby Digital • DTS • DSP • S Video Terminal • Optical Input for DD, DTS & PCM • Dot Matrix FL Display • Bass & Treble Controls 30 Preset RDS Tuner • Super Deluxe Silver Finish • Remote Control

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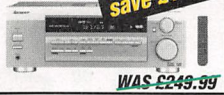

£99.99 Ex display model

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TOSHIBA SD-22VB

"A space saving solution – this will win fans for it's convenience. You can record a TV programme onto tape while watching a DVD. Users with older TV's without Scart sockets can now play DVDs. The SD-22VB is not a money saving solution at £225, but it is a convenient one." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jan 03**

DVD & VCR Combination • 4 Head Nicam Long Play VCR • VideoPlus with PDC Dolby Digital/DTS Compatible • Plays DVD, CD, VHS, CD-R, CD-RW, MP3 • Optical and Co-axial Digital Audio Output • Enhanced Audio Mode 3D Virtual • Surround Sound 2 Scart • Front AV • Remote

1/2 PRICE

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JAN 03

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SONY DAVS300

"Best Buy in the WHAT HI*FI? Awards. Home cinema doesn't come much more convenient than this slim unit from Sony, comprising a DVD player, built in Dolby Digital and DTS decoding and a tuner. Stunning plug and play package." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 01**

6 Channel Output • 5x30Watt Satellites Plus Subwoofer • DVD/CD/VCD Playback Dolby Digital • AM/FM 30 Preset Tuner • Full Remote Control

1/3 PRICE

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ OCT 01

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£129.99 Ex display model

save £420

~~WAS £549.95~~

YAMAHA RX-V430

"Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Well equipped and highly effective in surround mode." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 02**

Quality A/V Receiver from Yamaha • 6 Channel Amp • Dolby Digital EX DTS • DTS-ES • Dolby Pro Logic 11 • 2 Digital Inputs • 4 Video Inputs 6x 65Watts Output • Deluxe Black finish • Remote Control

1/2 PRICE

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUG 02

save £170

£129.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £299.99~~

YAMAHA DSP-AX630SE

"Excellent home cinema presentation; strong specification." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Oct 02**

6.1 Channel • Dolby Digital EX • DTS • DPL 11 • 21 Surround Programs • 6x 75Watts Output • Remote Control

1/2 PRICE

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ OCT 02

Also DSP-AX640SE **£249.99**

save £250

£149.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £399.99~~

A/V SUPERDEALS / A/V SPEAKERS SUPERDEALS

NAD T-751

"Great stereo performance; commendably solid build. With music the NAD really sings, turning in a fine performance with great dynamics and attention to detail. Should be on the shortlist for anyone wanting a music system that can turn its hand to movies." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep02**

5x 60Watts Output • Dolby Digital • DTS • 3x Digital Inputs • 3x Video Inputs 6.1 Channel Inputs • Full remote Control

1/3 PRICE

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ SEP 02

£149.99 Ex display model

save £350

~~WAS £499.95~~

YAMAHA RX-V440

"A mould- breaking piece of kit that's sure to revolutionise the affordable end of the home cinema market. Astonishing sonic ability for the price; offers genuine 6.1 surround, too. This receiver is a must-audition. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Mar 03**

6x 65 Watts Output • Dolby Digital EX • Dolby Pro-Logic 11 DTS ES • 24 Surround Programs • AM-FM Digital Tuner Preset Remote Control

MEGA DEAL

Also RX-V640 **£299.99**

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUL 03

£179.99 Ex display model

save £120

~~WAS £299.95~~

CELESTION LITTLE 1

"The Celestion's add more than their fare share of sound to the movie excitement." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision**

Superb Surround Speakers • 50Watts Handling • 88mm Bass Driver • 10mm Super Tweeter • 90db sensitivity • Frequency Res 100Hz-20KHz • 8 Ohm • White Finish

1/5 PRICE

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ FEB 03

save £120

£19.99

Also AVS101 Super Deluxe Pearl White/Emerald **£69.99**

~~WAS £139.99~~

WHARFEDALE VALDUS CENTRE

"The Valdus centre earns our wholehearted recommendation at such a bargain price of £100." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jun 96**

Dual 90mm Woofers • Dome Tweeter 75 Watts Handling • Freq Res 90-20,000Hz Deluxe Black Finish • 430x150x168mm

1/3 PRICE

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUN 96

£29.99

save £70

~~WAS £99.95~~

CELESTION CSW

Superb Active Subwoofer • 60 Watts Output • 200mm Woofer • Volume Level Control • Phase Sound Level Control • Freq Res 45-250Hz Deluxe Grey Finish • 300x300x300mm

1/4 PRICE

£49.99

save £150

~~WAS £199.99~~

CELESTION CSC

Superbly engineered with powerfully focused sonic ability • Dual 90mm Super Woofers • Super Soft Dome Tweeter • Freq Res 88-20,000Hz 89db Sensitivity • 75Watts Handling • Magnetically Shielded • Super Deluxe Video Grey Finish

1/2 PRICE

save £100

£99.99

Also CSC/2 Matching Surrounds **£149.99**

~~WAS £199.99~~

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A/V SPEAKER SUPERDEALS

PIONEER SW-80

1/2 PRICE

"A mastermind of an active subwoofer in a very pretty package. Delivering 110 Watts, this unit packs the power with low down grunt essential for a serious home cinema experience". Pioneer Europe NV. Jan 02

110 Watts Power Output • Class AB Amplifier • 220mm Sub Driver • RCA/Line Input • Phase Control • Variable Cut Off Frequency • Fully Shielded • Superb Light Wood Finish To Match Most Pine/Cherry Finishes

£129.99 save £130

~~WAS £259.99~~

CELESTION S8

MEGA DEAL

Superb Powered Subwoofer • 100Watts Power Output • 210mm Bass Reflex • Frequency Res 35Hz-150Hz • Full Magnetic Shielding • 370x320x320mm • Deluxe Metallic Charcoal Finish

Also A6s £399.99

£199.99 save £100

~~WAS £299.99~~

MISSION 78AS

1/2 PRICE

"The 78as subwoofer provides a solid low foundation for both films and music." Mission Sep 03 " The low-frequency reinforcement in the Mission 78se series system is taken care of by the 78as active sub, which uses two 200mm drive units fed with a hefty 250w internal amplifier."

What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 03

2 way Reflex Enclosure • Freq Res 32Hz-150Hz • 29Litres Volume 250watts Amplifier • 615x340x280mm • Deluxe Beech Real Wood Veneer

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ AUG 03

£349.99 save £350

~~WAS £699.99~~

1/2 PRICE A/V SPEAKER PACKAGES

PIONEER SCR-30

1/3 PRICE

Superb 3 Speaker AV Kit • 2x 80 Watt Rear Speakers • 830mm Woofer • 135x125x125mm • 1x 80 Watt Centre • 3 Way 2x 830mm Woofers 1x 25mm Dome Tweeter • 330x165x106mm • Superb Beech Wood Finish

Also SCR-305 5 Speaker Package £49.99

£29.99 save £70

~~WAS £99.99~~

PIONEER CINEMA 33

1/5 PRICE

A Superb 6 Speaker Cinema Package at a ridiculously low price • 1x SP33C Compact Centre Speaker • 4x SP33 30 Watt Surround Speakers • 85mm Woofer • Shelf Or Wall Mount • 1x Pioneer AS150 60 Watts Power Subwoofer • Subwoofer Volume Control • Suitable For Most A/V Set-ups

£69.99 save £310

~~WAS £379.99~~

SONY SA-VE225S

1/2 PRICE

Superb entry Sony Pascal 6 Speaker AV speaker system • 5 Satellite Speakers and Subwoofer • High Power 50Watt Active Subwoofer • 4x Compact 25Watt Front and Surround Speakers • Slimline 120Watt Centre Speaker • Cables Supplied

£79.99 Ex display model save £120

~~WAS £199.99~~

YAMAHA NSP-220s

1/2 PRICE

Digital Home Cinema Speaker Package • 2x 100 Watt Fronts • 2x 100 Watt Rears • 1x 100 Watt Centre • 1x Advanced YST 50 Watt Active Subwoofer • All Magnetically Shielded • Deluxe Silver Finish

Also NSP-320 £199.99

£89.99 save £110

~~WAS £199.99~~

SONY HT-BE1

1/2 PRICE

"Superb Dolby Digital 'BABE' Micro Home Theatre Kit with outstanding performance. Can be linked to PlayStation 2 or PC." **Sony Consumer Products Group Jan 03**

Includes Subwoofer With Integrated Amplifier And 5 Incredibly Small Speakers • 105watts Total Power • Digital Amplifier Built Into Subwoofer • Dolby Digital • DTS • Dolby Pro Logic 2 • Stands For Satellites Included • Speakers Mount On Wall Or Ceiling • Remote Control

£129.99 Ex display model save £150

~~WAS £279.99~~

WHARFEDALE DIAMOND VALDUS

1/2 PRICE

2x Diamond 8.3 90watts Front Speakers ★★★★★ **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 01** • 2x Diamond 8.2 70watts Surrounds • 1x Valdus Centre 75watts ★★★★★ **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jun 98**

£169.99 save £230

~~WAS £399.99~~

MISSION CINEMA M72

1/2 PRICE

"Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Brilliant affordable surround system. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 01**

2x 100 Watt Fronts • 2x 100 Watt Surrounds • 1x 100 Watt Centre • 89db sensitivity • 6 Ohms • Black or Beech Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUG 01

£179.99 save £220

~~WAS £399.99~~

CELESTION AVP100

MEGA DEAL

"The Celestion little 1's add more than their fare share of sound to the movie excitement." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision**

Superb Compact 6 Speaker Cinema package • 4x Little 1/AVS101 50Watt Front Speakers • 1x Little 1/AVS102 50Watt Centre Speaker • Superb Pearl White Finish With Emerald Grills • 1x S8 100 Watts Powered Subwoofer • Superb Deluxe Metallic Charcoal Finish All With Full Magnetic Shielding

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ FEB 98

£249.99 save £200

~~WAS £449.99~~

WHARFEDALE RB-25A/V

1/2 PRICE

"Wharfedale are almost unique in that they make and design virtually every component in-house. Every model in the range features ultra-strong die cast alloy drive units." Wharfedale International Aug 01

Superb 5 Piece A/V Speaker Package • 1x RB- Centre 100 Watt Shielded • 2x WH2 Superb 100 Watt Rear Channel Speakers • 2x RB-25 Quality Floorstanding 100 Watt Front Speakers • Deluxe Black/Rosewood or Cherry Finish

£299.99 save £400

Also RB-27 A/V Only £399.99

~~WAS £699.99~~

MISSION CINEMA M740

1/3 PRICE

Superb top of the range Mission A/V Speaker Package • 2 x M74i 200 Watt Super Bass Fronts • 2 x 771 • 'Potential Classics' **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 99** 100 Watt Rears • 77c Superb Centre Speaker

£349.99 save £450

~~WAS £799.99~~

WHARFEDALE PACIFIC CINEMA 20

1/2 PRICE

Superb Wharfedale 5 Speaker Cinema Package • 2x Pi-20 120Watt Front Speakers • 2x Pi-10 120Watt Rears **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Mar 02** • 1x Pi-Centre 100Watts 2x 5" Kevlar Bass & 1" Silk Dome • Tweeter • Superb Rosewood or Beech Real Wood Veneer

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ MAR 02

£399.99 save £500

~~WAS £899.99~~

WHARFEDALE PACIFIC CINEMA 30

1/2 PRICE

Superb 5 Speaker Cinema Package • 2x Pi-30 200Watt Front Speakers • 2x Pi-10 120Watt Rear Speakers **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Mar 02** • 1x Pacific 100Watt Centre Speaker Superb Real Rosewood or Beech Veneer Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ MAR 02

£449.99 save £550

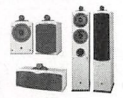
~~WAS £999.99~~

WHARFEDALE PACIFIC CINEMA 40

1/2 PRICE

Superb Wharfedale 5 Speaker Cinema Package • 2x Pi-40 200Watt Front Speakers • 2x Pi-10 120Watt Rears **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Mar 02** • 1x Pi-Centre 100Watts 2x 5" Kevlar Bass & 1" Silk Dome Tweeter • Superb Rosewood or Beech Real Wood Veneer

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ MAR 02



£499.99 save £550

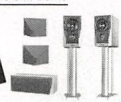
~~WAS £1049.99~~

MISSION 78 SERIES

MEGA DEAL

2x 781 - 175watt Front Speakers • 2x 78ds 100watt Bipole Surround Speakers with 2x 100mm Keraform Drivers 2x Silk Dome Tweeter • 1x 78c 200watt High Definition Centre Speaker with 2x 130mm Keraform Drivers 1x Triple Silk Dome Tweeter • Deluxe Rosewood Real Wood Veneer

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JAN 01



£699.99 save £500

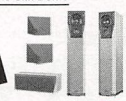
~~WAS £1199.99~~

MISSION 78 SERIES 3

MEGA DEAL

2x 783 - 200watt Front Speakers * 2x 78ds 100watt Bipole Surround Speakers with 2x 100mm Keraform Drivers 2x Silk Dome Tweeter • 1x 78c 200watt High Definition Centre Speaker with 2x 130mm Keraform Drivers 1x Triple Silk Dome Tweeter • Deluxe Rosewood Real Wood Veneer

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUL 02



£999.99 save £700

~~WAS £1699.99~~

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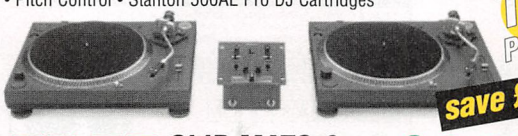
HALF PRICE STANTON SONY DJ MEGA DEAL!

2 x Sony PS-DJ9000/Stanton 500AL ~~WERE £599.99~~
- Direct Drive Quartz DJ Turntables • 3 Phase 8 Pole Brushless DC Motor
- Aluminium Die Cast 13.1 Inch 1.85 lbs Platter • Twin Speed
- S Shaped Tonearm With Detachable Headshell • Target Light
- Pitch Control • Stanton 500AL Pro DJ Cartridges



1/2 PRICE
save £350

FREE SLIP MATS & STANTON 500L CARTRIDGES!

£249.99 PER PAIR!

Sony MX-DJ9000 Pro Mixer
Was £99.99
HALF PRICE £49.99
1/2 PRICE

SUPER SAVE DJ1 KIT
2x PS-DJ9000 2x 500AL
1x MX-DJ9000
£299.99
WOW!

AMPLIFIERS / TURNTABLE

SONY TA-FE570

"Beautifully balanced sound, good build quality and will work well in most systems." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Apr 02**
2x 40 Watts Power Output • 3x Line Level Inputs
MM Phono Input • Tone Controls • Headphone Socket
Remote Control

1/2 PRICE
save £100

Also TA-FE230 £49.99

£69.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £169.99~~

NAD C320BEE

"Product of the Year in the **WHAT HI*FI? 2002 Awards**. Plenty of power and impressive levels of detail." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Dec 02**
2x 50 Watts Power Output • 5x Line Level Inputs
Tone Controls • Headphone Socket • Remote Control

MEGA DEAL
save £90

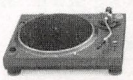
£129.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £219.99~~

SONY PS-DJ9000

Direct Drive Quartz DJ Turntable
3 Phase 8 Pole Brushless DC Motor
Aluminium Die Cast 13.1 Inch 1.85 lbs Platter • S Shaped Tonearm With Detachable Headshell • Pitch Control
Twin Speed • Target Light • Optional Cartridge

save £170
1/2 PRICE



£129.99
FREE SLIP MAT

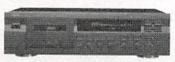
~~WAS £299.99~~

CASSETTES / CD

YAMAHA KX-393

"Best Buy 1999 **What Hi-Fi? Awards** ...easy touse and produces excellent results" **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep 99**
Twin head • Dolby B+C+ HxPro
Headphone socket
Auto calibration • Fine bias adjust

1/2 PRICE
save £110



£49.99 Ex Display Model

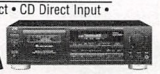
Also KXW321Twin £79.99

~~WAS £159.99~~

JVC TD-R472

"The feature that will attract most people to this deck is the powered loading door, auto reverse is handy and gives the TD-R472 an important advantage over the Yamaha KX-493 while Dolby B, C and HX Pro are also included. The overall presentation is nicely balanced too, with no part of the frequency range unduly emphasised" **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Apr 99 - "BEST BUY" Hi Fi CHOICE**
Music Scan • Bias Control • Auto Tape Select • CD Direct Input • Servo Direct Drive Motor

1/2 PRICE
save £150



£99.99

~~WAS £249.99~~

NAD C521i

"Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Excellent dynamics, solid bass and exciting sound. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 02**
Single Bit DAC • Co-ax Digital Output • 20 Track Memory
Full Remote Control

1/2 PRICE
save £100

£99.99 Ex Display Model

~~WAS £199.99~~

CDR

SONY RCD-W3

"A real cracker – the performance is good, the price is right and it's a breeze to use". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Feb 03**
Superb CD Recorder • Sampling Rate Converter • CD-RW
Co-ax and Optical Inputs/Outputs • Black or Silver Finish
Remote Control

MEGA DEAL

£129.99 Ex Display Model

save £120

~~WAS £249.99~~

PIONEER PDR-609

"Product of the Year in the Awards2002. Excellent buy as a stand alone recorder." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jul 02**
Popular CD Recorder • Sampling Rate Converter CD-RW
Co-ax, Optical and Line Inputs/Outputs
Black Finish • Remote Control

1/2 PRICE
save £160

Also PDR-W839 3CD & CDR £249.99

£139.99 Ex Display Model

~~WAS £299.99~~

PIONEER PDR-W839

This machine is quite outstanding it is a combination of a triple Multi C.D. player and C.D.R similar to the PDR609
Eisa 2000 Award Winner ★★★★★ Home Entertainment
NEED WE SAY MORE? CDR & CDRW compatible • 3 & 1 relay play • Text editing • Double speed dubbing (one touch) • Program record from 3 CDs Digital recording level • Advanced features from PDR-609:- sample rate converter with 44.1 KHZ by pass mode, digital rec level with digital fader, multi-track erase and TOC erase with RW discs

MEGA DEAL
save £150

£249.99

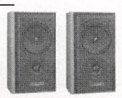
~~WAS £399.99~~

SPEAKERS

MISSION M-71i

"Best Buy WHAT HI*FI? Awards. Superb all-rounders – absolutely fantastic budget speakers." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision JAN 01**
75 Watts Power Handling • 88db Sensitivity
8 Ohms • Biwireable • 300x170x280mm
Deluxe Cherry Finish

1/2 PRICE
save £90



£49.99

~~WAS £139.99~~

WHARFEDALE DIAMOND 8.2

"Refined and insightful performers – these speakers are a credit to the Diamond name." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jul 01**
Superb Quality Stand Mount Speakers • 100 Watts Power Handling • 86db Sensitivity • Biwireable • 6 Ohms
Black or Beech Finish • 360x210x260mm

1/2 PRICE
save £80

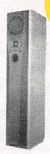
£69.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £149.99~~

MISSION M73

"Elegant towers – they're not flawless but they are persuasive". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Dec 01**
100Watts Handling • Sensitivity 90dB • 8 Ohms
Biwireable • Rosewood or Beech Finish

1/2 PRICE
save £130



£99.99 Ex Display Model

~~WAS £229.99~~

KEF Q55

Highly recommended **What Hi-Fi? Awards** "Wonderfully versatile with real sonic panache" **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 99**
100Watts power handling • 91 DB sensitivity
Hurry limited stocks • Deluxe Black finish

1/3 PRICE
save £300

£99.99

~~WAS £399.99~~

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AE120

"Given room to breath the AE120's reward with full scale power and bags of emotion" **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep 97**
100Watts handling • 89DB Sensitivity
Bi-wireable Deluxe Rosewood Finish

1/3 PRICE
save £270

£129.99

~~WAS £399.99~~

WHARFEDALE RB-25

"Having the same drive unit configuration as its smaller brother, this speaker provides deeper bass than the RB-23. The speakers are supplied with isolating plinths, and carpet spikes, designed to improve stability and dynamic attack by drastically reducing boom effects from the floor." Wharfedale International Jun 01
Superb 100 Watt Floorstander • Freq Res 42-20,000Hz
Heavy Isolating Plinths • Deluxe Black/Rosewood, Pine or Cherry • 884x270x278mm

1/2 PRICE
save £150

Also RB-27 £249.99

£149.99

~~WAS £299.99~~

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SPEAKERS

MISSION M74i

MEGA DEAL

"Superb powerhouse speakers – the low end performance, to put it simply, is fantastic". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Feb 03**

100 Watts Power Handling • 88 db Sensitivity • 8 Ohms Biwireable • Black Ash Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ FEB 03

£179.99 Ex Display Model

save £120

WAS £299.99

CELESTION A COMPACT

1/3 PRICE

"Vibrant performers , full of punch and sparkle that grabs your attention from the off. The bass slam they deliver from such tiny cabinets is little short of amazing. The Compacts are wonderfully appealing physically and sonically. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jul 98**

100 Watts Handling • Biwirable • 85db Sensitivity • Superb Black Real Wood Veneer • 320x270x180mm • Also in Cherry or Rosewood £299

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUL 98

£199.99

save £400

WAS £599.99

WHARFEDALE PACIFIC Pi-20

MEGA DEAL

"Get them well run in and the Wharfedale's pack a mighty punch. The bass performance will put a smile on the face of even the most diehard bass fanatic. The almost sub-sonic blast of low-end that underpins the whole groove will take your breath away. Neither is there any shortage of subtlety on offer either, good imaging means a fine presentation of instruments and vocals, allied to excellent dynamics. The Pi-20's are very fine speakers, and with electronic based music are right up there with the best at £350." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision May 01**

120 Watts Handling • 6.5" Kevlar Bass • 1" Silk Dome Tweeter • 87dB Sensitivity • Freq Res 40Hz-20KHz • 911x220x280mm • Maple Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ MAY 01

£199.99

save £150

WAS £349.99

ACOUSTIC ENERGY AE105SE

1/2 PRICE

"The 105SEs may be one of the most affordable designs in this group but they certainly don't look it; their sturdy cabinets are clothed in a classy real wood veneer and finished to a very high standard. Wired and fired, the AEs prove accomplished performers with an easygoing nature that makes for excellent long-term listenability." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 99**

Superb floorstanders • 100 Watts handling • 8 Ohms • 89db Sensitivity • 25mm soft dome • 110mm polymer-pulp bass cone • Super Deluxe Dark Red Ash Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ AUG 99

£249.99

save £150

WAS £399.99

CELESTION A1

1/3 PRICE

"WHEN WE FIRST tested these speakers back in December they were £900, but now they've been around a while the price has halved. And that means they're fantastic value at £450. The A1's midrange is natural, while a fine grasp of dynamics and solid punch add to their all-round appeal. The sort of balance that works well with all types of music. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Nov 02**

Superb Quality • 150 Watts Power Handling • 88db Sensitivity • Superb Black Real Wood Veneer • Bstock • 410x340x240mm

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ NOV 02

£299.99

save £600

Also A6s £399.99

WAS £899.99

KEF CONCERTO 1

1/2 PRICE

"In the Concerto One, a rear- ported bass reflex design with an awesomely competent HF capacity is complemented by a 'long throw' bass/midrange driver selected for it's exceptional (90dB) sensitivity and roll-off characteristics. Superlative Hi-Fi monitors for serious enthusiasts." **KEF AUDIO Mar 00**

Two Way Reflex Floorstander •100 Watts Handling • 8 Ohms Freq Res 48Hz-20KHz • Heavy Cast Plinth (1.1kg) • Gold Bi-wire/Bi-amp • Superb Finish Black Ash Real Wood Veneer 850 x 180 x 250mm

£299.99

save £300

WAS £599.99

1/2 PRICE SYSTEMS & TV MEGADEALS

YAMAHA TSS-1 PC SOUND SYSTEM

1/4 PRICE

Yamaha makes it easy to turn Your PC or Macintosh into a personal home theatre system. Rave reviews from the worlds top computer mags. "The stereo imaging is sharp and well defined." **Computer Gaming World May 01** "The Yamaha satellite and subwoofer system sounds incredible". **Electronic Gaming Monthly Feb 01**. Vastly Improve The Sound Of Your Movies, Games and PCs • 7 Piece Kit • Amplifier Unit 48Watts Output • Input Sensitivity 200mV Suitable for most PCs and DVD/CD Player Outputs

COMPUTER WORLD ★★★★★

£49.99 Ex Display Model

save £150

WAS £199.99

DENON DM-30

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TOSHIBA 15V11

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"Superb Flat Face 15" colour TV with absolute pure quality." **Toshiba Consumer Products Mar 03**

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1/2 PRICE

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28" Widescreen Colour TV • Flat Face Nicam • 20Watts RMS Power Output

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1/2 PRICE

WEGA Trinitron 32" Flat Screen CTV Nicam Stereo Sound • Dynamic Picture Control • 3D Sound • Auto Tune 3 Scart • Front A/V Sockets + S Video Smartlink • Optional Cabinet Full Function Remote

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TOSHIBA 32-Z07

1/2 PRICE

"A 32" version of the ★★★★★ WHAT HI*FI? awarded 28Z13B with the addition of Dolby Pro Logic with Rear Speakers." **Toshiba Consumer Products Mar 02**

Flat Face 40Watts Audio Output • Icon Screen Display 3x Scart • Remote Control

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ APR 02

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TOSHIBA 32ZP18

1/2 PRICE

"Picture Frame is a revolution in style, offering the ultimate balance between form and function providing a 32" TV the size of normal 28" sets." **Toshiba Consumer Products Mar 03**

Superb 32" Flat Face • 100Hz DFS • Toshiba Microfilter Tube Dolby Digital Surround • 63watts RMS Output With Extension Speakers • Subwoofer Comp Video Input Multi Std Tuner • 3 Scart • Optical & Co-ax Digital Audio Terminals

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1/2 PRICE

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1/2 PRICE

"Picture Frame is a revolution in style, offering the ultimate balance between form and function providing a 36" TV the size of normal 32" sets." **Toshiba Consumer Products Mar 03**

Superb 36" Flat Face • 100Hz DFS • Toshiba Microfilter Tube Dolby Digital Surround • 63watts RMS Output With Extension Speakers • Subwoofer Comp Video Input • Multi Std Tuner 3 Scart • Optical & Co-ax Digital Audio Terminals

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1/2 PRICE

"A 36" version of the WHAT HI*FI? ★★★★★ awarded 32ZD26 with the addition of Dolby Digital and Up to 18 Free to View Digital Terrestrial Channels." **Toshiba Consumer Products Mar 03**

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50 Watt Output • Auto Rev Radio Cassette • AM/FM
Digital Tuner • LCD Display • Full Detachable Front
Iso Connector

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80 Watts Output • Auto Rev Radio Cassette • AM/FM Digital
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4x 45Watt Radio Cassette • RDS-Eon
CD Changer Control • CD Text
Pre-Out • Detachable Front

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Complete with leads to fit most Sony Radio/Cass

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PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	CD	DVD	MiniDisc/CD-R	Tuner	Tape	Headphones	Speakers
Marantz Eclipse 19	600	★★★☆☆	May 02	Well-rounded and capable, but not cutting edge - the speakers are the major weakness.	21	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Nakamichi Soundspace 5	750	★★★☆☆	Apr 00	Huge style appeal but if you want to use it as your main system add a subwoofer.	15	3	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Onkyo HS-N1	499	★★★☆☆	Jun 02	Quite happy with a snappy tune, but we'd expect more bass weight at this price.	10	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
TEAC Reference 300	600	★★★★★	Mar 98	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Gorgeous looks, terrific build and great sound.	35	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	No
TEAC Reference 500	800	★★★★★	Sep 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Superior build and sound make this still a winner.	50	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	No
Yamaha Tabletop TSX-20	349	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Neat little basic set-up with serious style; sounds pretty impressive, too.	20	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes

£901 and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	CD	DVD	MiniDisc/CD-R	Tuner	Tape	Headphones	Speakers
B&O Beosound Century	1150	★★☆☆☆	May 95	A system that makes waves with its sleek design, but doesn't sound like a £1000 set-up.	N/A	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	Yes
B&O Beosound 3200	1750	★★★☆☆	Jul 03	Head-turning style, quality engineering and a 40GB CD memory, but it is not great hi-fi.	N/A	1	0		Yes	0	No	No
B&O Beosound 3000/Blab 4000	2300	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Looks that are guaranteed to turn heads and a performance that is pretty impressive too.	2x59	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Bose Lifestyle 20	2200	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Hi-fi at its most discreet - this flexible system sounds warm and rich and will go loud.	180	6	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Cyrus Quattro FM	900	★★★★★	Jan 01	Elegant box containing a CD, preamp and optional FM tuner - just add a power amp.	Pre/A	1	0	-	Yes	1	Yes	No
Linn Classik Music System	1030	★★★★★	Apr 01	Flexible system with true separates performance. Tested with Classik Unik speakers.	75	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	No
Myryad Cameo	1200	★★★★☆	May 02	True hi-fi separates in a user-friendly package - the Cameo has sonic charm.	50	1	0	-	No	0	Yes	No
Nakamichi Soundspace 8	1000	★★★★☆	Jul 99	Product of the Year in the Awards 1999. Stylish good looks and impressively musical.	20/10	5	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Nakamichi Soundspace 9	2500	★★☆☆☆	Jun 02	'Wow' designer looks, but the sound quality is a distinct letdown, especially for £2500.	70+45	3	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Red Rose Spirit IA1 LS1	1999	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Minimalist amp and small speakers - good sound for the house-proud music lover.	35	0	0	-	No	0	No	Yes
Sony CMT-L7HD	900	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Striking style, hi-tech facilities and a more than reasonable performance.	25	1	0	H	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
✪ Sugden Master System	2647	★★★★★	May 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. It has it all: looks, build and sonic talent.	36	1	0	-	No	0	Yes	No
T+A K1	1600	★★☆☆☆	Jan 03	Eye-catching, but fails to deliver the sort of sound we'd expect for this price.	45x4	1	0		Yes	0	Yes	Yes
TAG McLarenAphrodite/Calliope	5290	★★★★★	Sep 00	Style aplenty and performance to match. No other system is built to these standards.	50	1	0	-	Yes	0	Yes	Yes

KEY | **Power** The power per channel the manufacturer quotes. Bear in mind these figures can tend to be rather 'creative' CD 1 means it's a single-disc player, larger numbers show how many discs can be loaded. **DVD** Some systems now use a DVD player instead of a CD player, and this trend may grow. **MiniDisc/CD-R** Does the system have a digital recorder built in? If so, M=MiniDisc, C=CD-R or H=Hard disk built in. **Speakers** Are they included in the price as shown? Opt means speakers are optional.

DVD players/recorders

Up to £400

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Decoder	RGB	Scart out	CD-R	Digital out
Alba DVD108	70	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Perfectly OK machine for not much money - just don't expect miracles.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C
Bush DVD2023	90	★★☆☆☆	Nov 02	Comparable players available for less - only good enough for use with modest TVs.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C
Cambridge Audio DVD57	199	★★★★☆	Jul 03	Mouth-wateringly good specs - good for multichannel music, but picture quality is average.	A/V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Cyberhome CH-DVD 405	100	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Strong specification for the price - but a little more money buys better performance.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	O
Denon DVD-900	250	★★★☆☆	Dec 02	Laudable attempt to do the 'one machine suits all' thing, but still not a great CD player.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Goodmans DVD-134	100	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Competent machine rather than one that gets us excited. There are better buys around.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Harman-Kardon DVD25	350	★★★★★	May 03	May lack the frills but it offers excellent movie playback at a fair price.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Kiss DP-500	300	★★☆☆☆	Aug 03	Intriguing concept with PC connectivity, but it's just not good enough as a DVD player.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Lecson DVD-900	99	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Still a solid performer, but the new generation of big-brand players undermine it.	V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Lecson DVD-1000	179	★★★★★	Jun 02	A cracker from Debenhams - superb sound and vision and every facility you could want.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
LG DVD5095	250	★★★☆☆	May 03	Unless you adore its styling we don't see much point in choosing this player.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Marantz DV4300	300	★★★★☆	Aug 03	We tested this with the SR4300 receiver - but it's not quite a dream combination.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Marantz DV4200 OSE	350	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Optimised for musicality and it pays dividends, but it doesn't have enough video talents.	V	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
NAD T531	330	★★★☆☆	May 02	Competitive CD replay and decent picture resolution but it won't worry the class leaders.	V	No	Yes	1	No	C/O
NAD T571(DVD/CD changer)	400	★★★★☆	Nov 02	CD multiplayer and DVD player - neat, but we're not convinced it will have wide appeal.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Panasonic DVD-S75	170	★★★★☆	Jul 03	Strong contender but ultimately trades attack for refinement.	A/V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	O

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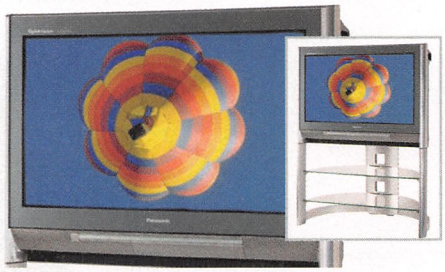

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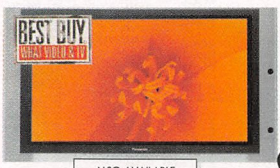

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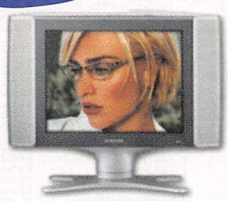

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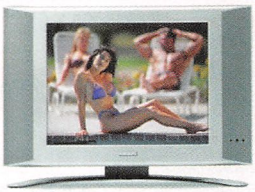

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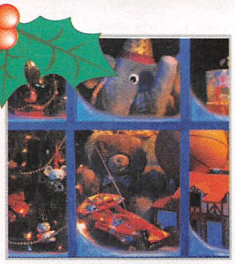

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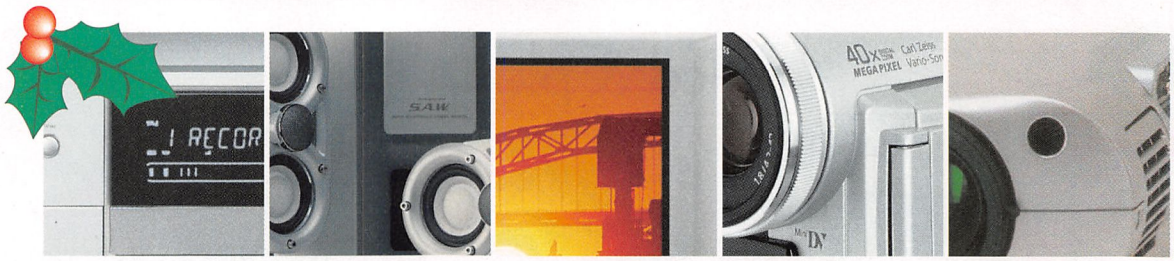

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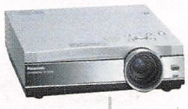

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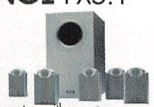

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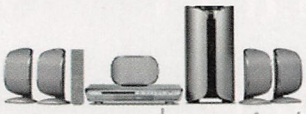

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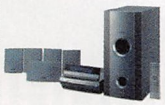

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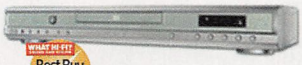

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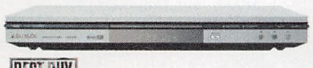

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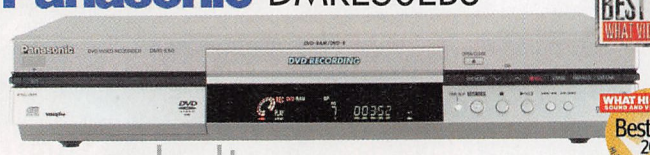

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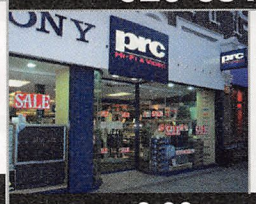

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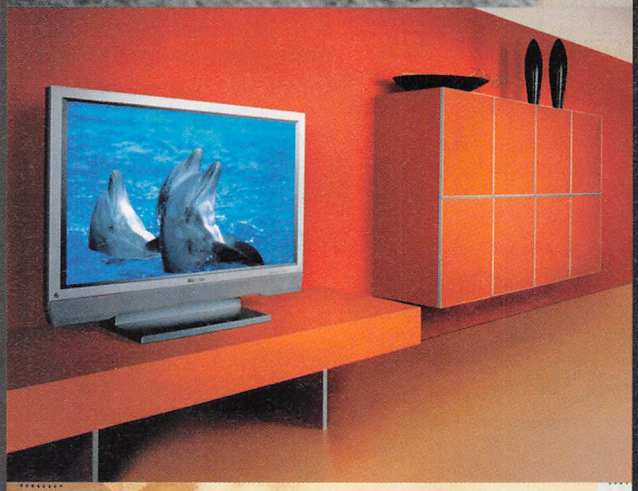

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Panasonic DVD-XV10	210	★★★☆☆	Aug 02	Looks and sounds fine but you can do so much better for this kind of money.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	O
Panasonic DMR-E50	400	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Easy-to-use and affordable DVD recorder.	R	No	Yes	2	Yes	O
Philips DVDR70	299	★★★★☆	Awd 03	A good buy - makes impressive DVD recordings and is decent at music replay.	R	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Philips DVD963SA	400	★★★★★	May 03	Excellent DVD player - high-quality pictures, SACD playback and it's good with CDs	V/S	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Pioneer DV-464-S	120	★★★★★	Oct 03	Paired with the Pioneer VSX-C301-S receiver this system is more than substantial.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Pioneer DV-565A	250	★★★★★	Sep 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Cracking universal player.	A/V/S	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Pioneer DV-656A	400	★★★★★	Jul 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Outstanding-value universal player.	A/V/S	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Samsung DVD-N505	199	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Solid, if not an exciting buy - great features-set but it isn't a match for the very best.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Samsung DVD-M405	250	★★★☆☆	Feb 02	Looks alright and it's well specified but we're not blown away by the picture or sound.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Sony DVP-NS305	150	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Affordable way into big-name home cinema. No hack and better with films than music.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Sony DVP-NS930V	300	★★★★☆	Awd 03	Great picture but no DVD-Audio - can't match the ability of the Pioneer DV-565A	V/S	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Sony DVP-NS905V	400	★★★★☆	Oct 02	High standard of DVD playback and it's good with SACD, but it lacks DVD-A.	V/S	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
TEAC DV-3500	130	★★★★☆	Jul 03	Above-average performer that should be praised at this bargain price.	V	Yes	No	1	Yes	C/O
Toshiba SD-330E	100	★★★★★	Jul 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Exceptional performance for the price.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Truvox DVD-600	100	★★★★★	Mar 02	Absolute bargain designed in Britain made in China. Available from Debenhams.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Wharfedale M3	100	★★★★★	Feb 03	Very good DVD player for very little money. It has style, too.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Wharfedale DVD-750	180	★★★★★	Oct 00	The player that set the budget DVD ball rolling - terrifically capable for the money.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Yamaha DVD-S830	400	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Tested as a system with the RX440RDS but this DVD/Audio player isn't quite a star.	A/V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O

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Arcam DiVA DV88 Plus	1000	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Fine choice if you want a one-box solution for movies and CDs.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Arcam DiVA DV89	1300	★★★☆☆	Sep 03	Very nice, but rather expensive, too. Fine DVD-A and CD performance.	A/V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Arcam FMJ DV27A	1900	★★★☆☆	Sep 03	Fine video performance and great CD and DVD-A replay but others do it cheaper.	A/V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Cyrus DVD7+	1000	★★★☆☆	Mar 03	One of the most musical DVD players around - but not the best for DVD use.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Cyrus DVD8	1200	★★★★☆	Feb 03	Excellent if music is your first love, but not so outstanding with movies.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Denon DVD-1600	500	★★★☆☆	May 02	Solid but not competitive; offers reasonable video performance but it's plodding with CD.	A/V	No	No	2	Yes	Opt
Denon DVD-2800Mk2	750	★★★★★	Apr 03	Superb picture and impressive movie sound and by DVD standards, a fine CD machine.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Denon DVD-2900	850	★★★★★	Sep 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Cracking universal player, exceptional in many ways.	A/V/S	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Denon DVD-A1	2500	★★★★★	Aug 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Blisteringly good picture and strong sound performance.	V	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Harman-Kardon DVD30	450	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Good video performance and multichannel music playback is well balanced.	A/V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
JVC XV-DDV1	500	★★☆☆☆	Oct 03	Intriguing DVD player (not recorder) and a hard-disk recorder but it's flawed.	V/R/H	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Meridian 596	2485	★★★★★	Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Outstanding picture and sensational CD performance too.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C
Meridian Reference 800	10805	★★★★★	Feb 01	Staggeringly sophisticated, totally flexible, and astonishingly accomplished.	V	No	No	0	Yes	C
Myryad Z120	600	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Reasonable, but you can get more - and that includes performance - for less.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Myryad MDV300	900	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Good performer across the board but slightly behind some in this price bracket.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
NAD T562	500	★★★☆☆	Dec 02	Decent player but it doesn't offer anything special for the money.	V	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Panasonic DMR-HS2	850	★★★★★	Jan 03	Extremely impressive, a logical long-term path for all DVD recorders. Uses DVD-RAM discs.	R	No	Yes	1	Yes	O
Panasonic DVD-LA95(portable)	1000	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Slim, light and portable - not a bad picture but the sound quality is its real weakness.	A/V	No	No	0	Yes	O
Philips DVDR75	499	★★★☆☆	Sep 03	Misses the mark with below-par DVD replay and a flimsy build, plus a high price.	R	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Philips DVDR1000 MkII	1000	★★★★★	Jan 03	Top-notch video-orientated solution - fine addition to a plasma or projector-based system.	R	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Pioneer DV-757Ai	800	★★★★★	Sep 03	Fully loaded and performs superbly in most areas - one of the best DVD players around.	A/V/S	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Pioneer DV-747A	900	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Universal disc player - best in the Supertest, but it's not a perfect all-round solution.	A/V/S	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Pioneer PDV-LC20(Portable)	1000	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Well-specified portable but its average sound and vision doesn't justify the price.	V	No	No	0	Yes	O
Pioneer DV-939A	1200	★★★★★	May 01	Terrific DVD-Audio player - although if you don't need DVD-A the DV-737 would do as well.	A/V	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Pioneer DVR-7000	1300	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Pricey but has abilities not only as a DVD recorder but as a DVD-Video player too.	R	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O
Primare V10	700	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Well-made, highly attractive player that works well. Not cutting-edge, but worth a look.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O

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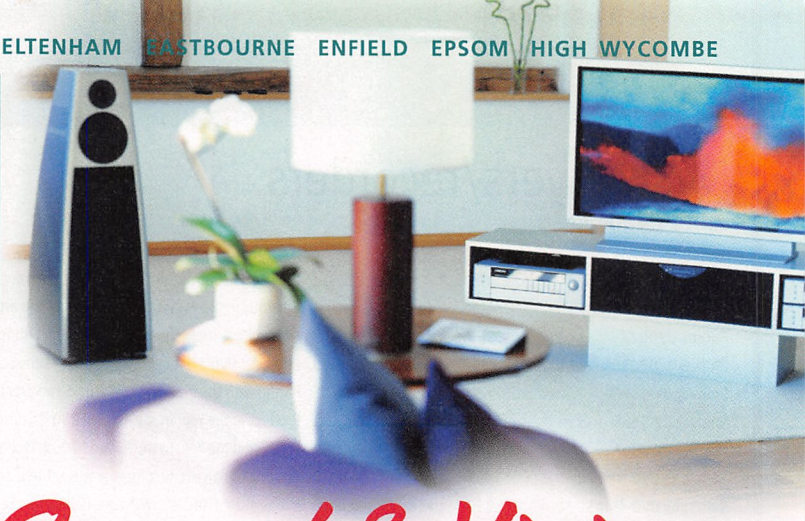

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NEWS

The stunning new **B&W 700** series is now avaliable at the BRENTWOOD, CAMBERLEY, EASTBOURNE, HIGH WYCOMBE and READING stores.

B&W 705

The long awaited **Rotel 10 Series** DVD-A player the **RDV-1060** has finally arrived. Described as, *"a an organic player in a field of GM crops"* by **Hi-Fi News (October 2003)** this player is stocked at our CAMBERLEY, BRENTWOOD, BRIGHTON, EASTBOURNE, HIGH WYCOMBE, READING, SWINDON and TUNBRIDGE WELLS stores.

RDV-1060

Rotel's new flagship **RSP-1098** processor is also now avaliable and is stocked at the CAMBERLEY, BRENTWOOD, BRIGHTON, EASTBOURNE, HIGH WYCOMBE, READING, SWINDON and TUNBRIDGE WELLS branches.

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50"	PANASONIC	TH50PW6	Silver	NEW	£POA
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DVD players/recorders

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PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Decoder	RGB	SCART out	CD-R	Digital out
Primare V25	1000	★★★☆☆	Apr 03	Once impressive, but it's no longer competitive at a £1000.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Roksan Kandy DVD	650	★★★☆☆	Feb 03	Good, but offers little you can't get in rival players for well under £200.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Roksan Caspian	1195	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Effectively, a CD player that happens to spin DVDs, but you could do better for less.	V	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
Samsung DVD-L100W (Portable)	999	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Highly watchable portable DVD player - solid audio performance too through decent phones	V	No	No	0	Yes	O
Sony D-VM1(Portable)	1000	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Beautiful yet logical design but the 4:3 screen is tiny for such a hefty price tag.	V	No	No	0	Yes	O
TAG McLaren Audio DVD32FLR	2995	★★★★★	Sep 02	Jaw-droppingly good in the right set-up - stunning picture and spectacular sound.	V	No	No	0	Yes	C/O
TAG McLaren Audio DVD32R	4595	★★★★★	Feb 01	Outstanding build quality, outstanding specification, terrific performance in every area.	V	No	No	0	Yes	C/O
✪ TEAC DV-50	4500	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. The best all-format disc player we've come across.	A/V/S	No	Yes	1	Yes	C/O
✪ Toshiba RD-XS30	699	★★★★★	Awd 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Extremely competent HDD and DVD playback.	V/R/H	No	Yes	2	Yes	C/O

KEY | **Type of player** Is the player a DVD-Video or DVD-Audio design. A = DVD-Audio, V = DVD-Video S = SACD RW = Recordable/rewritable. **Decoder** Internal surround decoders to turn a Pro-Logic amplifier into a 5.1 system. RGB Scart-based method of sending high-quality pictures from DVD players to TVs. Stands for Red, Green and Blue. **Scart out** 21-pin audio/video connector that forms the main link between your DVD player and TV set. **CD-R replay** Indicates if CD-R discs can be replayed. **Digital out** To feed a datastream to a suitable AV processor, amp or receiver. C = Coaxial, O = Optical.

Surround amps & receivers

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PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	Modes	Digital inputs	Video inputs	Six channel inputs
Arcam DiVA AVR200	800	★★☆☆☆	Jun 03	Sounds good in stereo but it can't compete with more powerful, feature-packed rivals.	70x5	2/D/S	5	4	Yes
Denon AVR-1603	300	★★★★☆	Feb 03	Excellent-value - lots of features and weighty delivery. Loves belting out blockbusters.	70x5	2/D/S	2	4	Yes
Denon AVR-1803	450	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Highly competent in every area and a good spec, too. Just not quite the best in its class.	80x6	2/S/X	5	5	Yes
✪ Denon AVR-2803	650	★★★★★	Awd 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Terrific upgrade over budget designs.	90x7	2/S/X/E	5	7	Yes
Harman-Kardon AVR 3550	525	★★★☆☆	Mar 03	Fine sound, especially in stereo, but rivals offer a great deal more capability.	65x5	2/D/S	4	4	Yes
Harman-Kardon AVR 4550	800	★★★★☆	Aug 03	The combination of this receiver with the Harman-Kardon DVD25 makes a solid all-rounder.	50x7	2/X/S	5	5	Yes
Marantz SR4400	350	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Fine-sounding and solid in every regard. We'd certainly give it an extended audition.	80x6	2/X/E	4	4	Yes
Marantz SR5400	450	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Great sound and solid specifications but it doesn't offer much over its junior brother.	80x6	2/X/E	4	5	Yes
NAD T752	600	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Another competent performer from NAD but the competition offers more.	80x5	D/2/E	6	6	Yes
Panasonic SA-XR45	400	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Very impressive with the DVD-S75 - one of the best style-orientated solutions we've seen.	100x6	2/X/E	4	3	Yes
Pioneer VSX-C301-S	250	★★★★★	Oct 03	Paired with the DV-464-S DVD player this slimline system is more than substantial.	50x5	2/D/S	4	4	No
✪ Pioneer VSX-D812	330	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Astonishing levels of ability in multichannel use.	100x6	2/X/E	4	4	Yes
Pioneer VSX-501	400	★★★★★	Awd 03	Slick-looking, stylish receiver that also delivers a good performance.	75x6	2/X/E	4	4	Yes
Pioneer VSX-D912	500	★★★★☆	Awd 03	Fine receiver but not worth nearly £200 more than the more basic VSX-D812.	100x6	2/X/E	5	4	Yes
Pioneer VSX-AX3	800	★★★★★	Oct 03	Another class-leader - belting all-round performance and fine specification.	100x7	2/X/E	5	5	Yes
Sherwood RVD-6095RDS	249	★★★★★	Awd 99	Spadefuls of home cinema bangs for your buck. Tested as RVD-6090RDS without DTS.	65x5	D/S	2	3	No
Sherwood R-956R	500	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Competent receiver and offers a lot for your money, but it's a disappointing performer.	140x5	X/E	6	6	Yes
Sony STR-DB790	300	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Brilliant, but not perfect - great surround precision, but it's not as gutsy as we'd like.	100x6	2/X/E	5	5	Yes
Sony STR-DB1080	500	★★★★★	Mar 03	Hugely appealing - very flexible, equipped to an excellent standard and sounds brilliant.	100x6	D/E/X	4	5	Yes
Sony STR-VA333ES	800	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Awesome on paper, but you'd be wiser to spend an extra £200 on the STR-VA555ES.	100x7	2/X/E	6	5	Yes
TEAC AG-5D	280	★★☆☆☆	Oct 03	Effective enough design with exciting, forceful sound, but it is not 6.1 capable.	125x5	D/E/2	3	3	Yes
TEAC AG-10D	350	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Competent by class standards, but not quite in the front rank.	125x6	2/X/E	4	3	Yes
Yamaha RX-V440RDS	300	★★★★★	Oct 03	Terrific all-round ability - its muscular sound is involving and exciting to listen to.	65x6	2/X/E	2	4	Yes
✪ Yamaha DSP-AX640SE	400	★★★★★	Sep 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Outstanding home cinema ability at this price.	85x6	2/X/E	5	7	Yes
Yamaha RX-V640RDS	470	★★★★★	Aug 03	Improves on its little brother with better facilities and more power but it's £170 more.	90x6	2/X/E	5	5	Yes

£801 and over

Denon AVR-3803 7.1	899	★★★★☆	Jun 03	Impressive movie machine and more than good enough for occasional music.	150x7	2/S/X/E	7	9	Yes
Denon AVC-A11SR	1800	★★★★★	Mar 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Stunner - does everything most of us could ever need.	125x7	D/S/T	8	8	Yes
Denon AVC-A1SR	3000	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Formidable, combining muscle, refinement and high build quality to stunning effect.	170x5	2/X/E/T	11	8	Yes
Harman-Kardon AVR 5550	900	★★★★☆	May 03	Big, solid and flexible with powerful sound with movies - but it could be more musical.	70x7	2/E/X	4	10	Yes
Harman-Kardon AVR 5500	900	★★★★☆	Jun 03	Flexible and has reasonable power but it's a little too restrained in stereo for us.	70x5	2/D/S	6	6	Yes
✪ Harman-Kardon AVR 8500	1800	★★★★★	Feb 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Fantastic performer and has massive specifications.	100x5	2/D/E/X	8	5	Yes
Marantz SR9200	1999	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Fine musical performance for a product of this type but it's disappointing with movies.	160x5	2/S/T/X	10	6	Yes
Marantz PS-17	2000	★★★★★	May 03	The PS-17 with two SM-17s power amps makes an exciting movie and music package.	60/-/-	2/E/X	6	5	Yes
Onkyo TX-NR900	1499	★★★★★	Aug 03	Outstandingly flexible - has PC connectivity and impressive home cinema performance.	150x7	2/X/E	8	6	Yes
Parasound Halo C1 and A51	8500	★★★★☆	Aug 03	The C1 processor and A51amp are worthy of a place at the table of home cinema elite.	Pre/250x5	X/E/2	8	6	Yes
✪ Pioneer VSX-AX5i	1200	★★★★★	Sep 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. New i.link connection ensures even better audio.	100x7	2/X/E	6	6	Yes
✪ Pioneer VSA-AX10	2700	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Simply the most complete integrated AV amp available.	170x7	2/T/X/E	8	7	Yes
Primare SPA20	2000	★★★★☆	Sep 03	Lacks the frills of some rivals but here at last is an AV amp that delivers with music.	100x5	2/X/E	2	6	Yes
Rotel RSX-1055	1195	★★★★☆	Jun 03	Excellent receiver but it is too expensive considering it is only 5.1 as standard.	75x5	X/E	5	5	Yes
Rotel RSX-1065	1795	★★★★★	Mar 02	We love the way it looks, we respect the features it carries, and boy, does it sound good.	100x5	2/E/X	5	5	Yes
Sherwood AVP-9080/AM-9080	1000	★★★★☆	May 99	A processor and multichannel power amp give you a lot of box for your money.	120x5	D/S	6	5	No
Sony STR-VA555ES	1000	★★★★★	Jun 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Outstanding build, features and specification.	100x5	2/X/E	6	5	Yes
Yamaha RX-V1300RDS	900	★★★★☆	Jun 03	Solid value for money with refined yet powerful sound, but it is not without competitors.	100x6	2/X/E	7	8	Yes
Yamaha DSP-AZ1	2000	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Plenty of power and dynamics but can sound hard-edged and aggressive.	130x6	2/X/E	11	11	Yes

KEY | **Power** Most surround amplifiers have ample power, so remember, more watts don't always mean better sound. Figures are shown in the order Left/Right, Centre, Surround, Rears (if provided). **Modes** P=Pro-Logic, 2=Prologic II, D=Pro-Logic & Dolby Digital, S=DTS, T=THX, X=Pro-Logic, Dolby Digital & Dolby Digital EX, E=DTS & DTS ES. **Digital inputs** The number of digital inputs for use with DVD players, CD players, etc. **Video inputs** Can be Component, S-Video, Composite Video, Scart. **Six-Channel Inputs** Vital for DVD-Audio/SACD multichannel

RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Processors

Up to £8100

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	Modes	Digital inputs	Video inputs	Six channel inputs
Arcam FMJ AV8	3000	★★★★★	May 03	The AV8 is superb and paired with the P7 power amp the combo is simply stunning.	Pre/A	D/2/S/T	7	13	Yes
Cyrus AV8	1100	★★★☆☆	May 03	Makes an affordable 5.1 channel system with three SmartPower amps, but it lacks oomph.	Pre/A	D/S	6	0	No
Lexicon MC-12 (unbalanced)	8100	★★★★★	Apr 02	If you can afford it, you owe it to your ears to hear this jaw-droppingly good processor.	Pre/A	D/2/S/E	13	17	Yes
Myryad MDP500 G6	2600	★★★★☆	May 03	Quality processing, with the MA500 it makes a neat package.	Pre/A	2/X/E	6	6	Yes
Naim AV2	2255	★★★★★	Dec 02	The no-frills combination of the AV2 with the NAP V150 power amp is truly thrilling.	Pre/A	D/2/S/E	4	0	Yes
Primare P30	2000	★★★★☆	Oct 00	Paired with the A30.5 power amp (now MkII not tested) make a delightful pairing.	Pre/A	D/S	8	5	No
Primare SP31.7	2500	★★★★☆	May 03	Good all-rounder with the A30.5 MkII power amp, but the combo lacks sheer brute force.	Pre/A	2/X/E	8	9	Yes
Roksan Caspian DSP	1295	★★★★☆	Feb 00	Fantastic purely as a music preamplifier but slightly below par as a home cinema decoder.	Pre/A	D/S	4	0	Yes
Rotel RSP-1066	995	★★★★★	May 03	Stunning combined with the RMB 1075 five channel amp. Great in stereo and with movies.	Pre/A	D/2/E	5	12	Yes
TAG McLaren AV30R	1799	★★★★★	May 03	Bombproof build and great performance - tested with the 100x5R:10 amplifier.	Pre/A	D/2/S	7	8	Yes
TAG McLaren AV32R bp192	2549	★★★★★	Sep 99	Quite sensational. Software upgraded in 2002 and six channel analogue bypass added.	Pre/A	D/S	5	8	Yes
Yamaha DSP-E800	350	★★★★★	Sep 00	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Brilliance in a sensibly priced box.	70x3	D/S	3	5	Yes

KEY | Power Figures are shown in the order Centre, Surround, Rears (if provided). **Modes** P=Pro-Logic, 2=Prologic II, D=Pro-Logic & Dolby Digital, S=DTS, T=THX, X=Pro-Logic, Dolby Digital & Dolby Digital EX, E=DTS & DTS ES. **Digital inputs** The number of digital inputs for use with DVD players, CD players, etc.. **Video inputs** Can be Component, S-Video, Composite Video, Scart. **Six-Channel Inputs** Vital for DVD-Audio/SACD multichannel

Subwoofers

Up to £2095

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	Sensitivity	Impedance	Biwirable	Size	Finishes
✪ B&W ASW675	650	★★★★★	Oct 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Cracking little sub that deserves consideration	A500	-	-	-	34.34.41	3
✪ B&W ASW750	1200	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Rock solid powerful bass delivered with power.	A1K	-	-	-	44.40.48	5
Boston Acoustics PV400	249	★★☆☆☆	Feb 01	Easily outclassed by its rivals - this is one to avoid, so look elsewhere.	A65	-	-	-	50.25.28	Bk
Eton E300	695	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Good design - get it right and it's capable of power and authority.	A300	-	-	-	40.35.30	4
Heco Slam 12A	279	★★★☆☆	Dec 01	There's little wrong with this, but it stubbornly refuses to do anything special either.	A90	-	-	-	38.37.43	Sl
Jamo E 6SUB	279	★★★★☆	Feb 01	Stylish, sonically capable product, which only narrowly misses top marks.	A100	-	-	-	34.39.39	3
Jamo D7Sub	999	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Looks good on paper but it fails to deliver in use.	A400	-	-	-	49.59.44	?
Linn Sizmik10.5 (each)	995	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	May be a neat design but it is outstripped by similarly priced competitors.	A500	-	-	-	39.36.36	3
M&K VX-100	845	★★★★★	Jul 99	Really hit the spot when asked to perform highly musical low frequency duties.	A100	-	-	-	31.37.28	Bk
M&K V1250THX	995	★★★★★	Jun 99	Part of the 750THX package - stunning home cinema performance.	A125	-	-	-	46.59.39	Bk
M&K MX-350 MkII (THX)	2095	★★★★★	Apr 03	Used with pedigree partnering equipment, the MX-350s are little short of breathtaking.	A350	-	-	-	58.39.51	Bk
Magnat Omega 300	399	★★☆☆☆	Dec 01	Respectable performance, but the lack of real depth will disappoint action fanatics.	A100	-	-	-	46.52.49	Bk
Mission m5as	500	★★★★★	Oct 02	One of the most musical subs we know. If you've the space this takes some beating.	A350	-	-	-	58.35.52	3
MJ Acoustics Pro 50 (Paint)	299	★★★★★	Nov 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Awesome clout from a tiny enclosure.	A50	-	-	-	28.33.28	2
MJ Acoustics Pro-50 (Wood)	349	★★★★★	Dec 01	Smart enough to be furniture, good enough to be great hi-fi.	A50	-	-	-	28.33.28	6
✪ MJ Acoustics Ref 100 (Paint)	350	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Excellent sub that gives a suprisingly gutsy performance.	A120	-	-	-	28.33.28	2
MJ Acoustics Ref 150 (Wood)	629	★★★★☆	Awd 03	Strong sub that works well with both movies and music.	A150	-	-	-	30.36.29	6
MJ Acoustics Pro 500 (Wood)	949	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Stunning groundshaking ability - one for the AV fanatic with a dedicated listening room.	A300	-	-	-	41.48.36	3
MJ Acoustics Pro 100 (Wood)	699	★★★★★	Apr 02	Deliver a superbly deft punch along with excellent extension - not for small rooms.	A100	-	-	-	57.32.28	6
MJ Acoustics Reference I (Wood)	799	★★★★★	Jun 03	Top performer in every sense, and a strong rival to REL and B&W in this class.	A120	-	-	-	42.49.32	6
MJ Acoustics Pro 500 (Wood)	949	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Stunning groundshaking ability - one for the AV fanatic with a dedicated listening room.	A300	-	-	-	41.48.36	3
Monitor Audio ASW-100	300	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Better with music than movies - ideal for audiophiles who enjoy the occasional film.	A120	-	-	-	32.32.34	2
Monitor Audio FB210	700	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Big bold sound - it's not a sub for smaller spaces. Take care with positioning.	A250	-	-	-	50.37.37	2
Mordaunt-Short MS909W	500	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Fine effort that will work well in a wide range of systems.	A300	-	-	-	42.42.42	Bk
Paradigm PDR-10	250	★★★★☆	Aug 97	Highly Recommended in the 1997 Awards. Offers bags of bass for the money.	A80	-	-	-	36.34.40	Bk
Paradigm Servo 15	800	★★★★★	Oct 98	Huge sub which roars through action movies. Mighty muscle at an affordable price.	A400	-	-	-	53.46.56	Bk
REL Acoustics Quake (Black)	350	★★★★★	Dec 02	REL's pocket rocket merits instant inclusion on any subwoofer audition list.	A100	-	-	-	29.26.27	Bk

RATINGS
✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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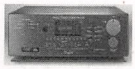

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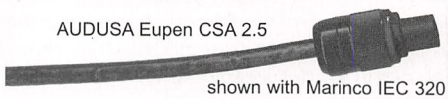

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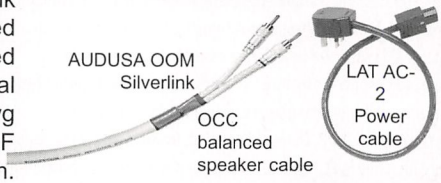

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LAT International AC-2 - £75 for 0.9m etc
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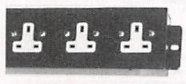

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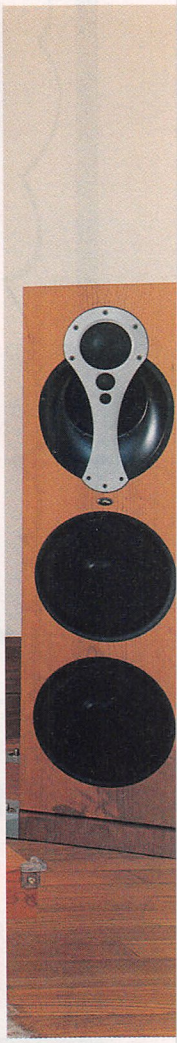

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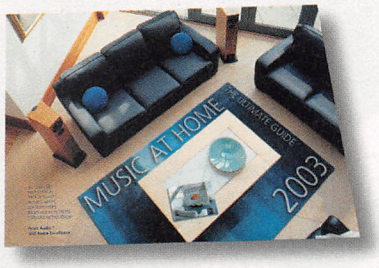

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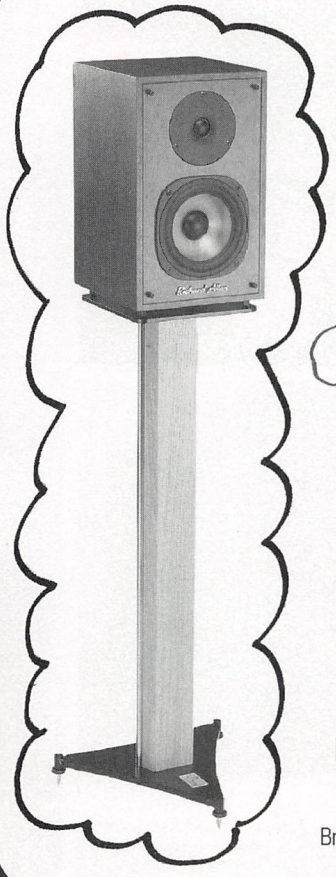

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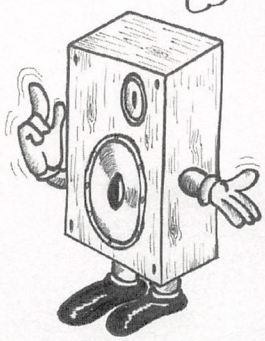

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Subwoofers continued

Up to £2095

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power	Sensitivity	Impedance	Biwirable	Size	Finishes
REL Acoustics Quake (Cherry)	425	★★★★★	Oct 02	Produces prodigious bass for its size, especially in the stiffer balanced-veneered cherry.	A100	-	-	-	29.26.27	Ch
✪ REL Acoustics Q-150E MkII	500	★★★★★	Sep 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Sensible but effective revamp. Great value.	A150	-	-	-	32.29.33	Bk
REL Acoustics Q200E	650	★★★★☆	Sep 99	A great choice for injecting some muscle into your system if space is at a premium.	A200	-	-	-	29.29.29	Bk
REL Acoustics Strata III	700	★★★★★	Jul 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. A subwoofer that gives music and movies a real boost.	A100	-	-	-	52.42.33	Bk
REL Acoustics Q201E	725	★★★★★	Feb 01	Astonishing extension and muscularity - one of the best small subwoofers around.	A200	-	-	-	33.30.35	Bk
REL Acoustics Storm III	900	★★★★★	Apr 03	Certainly one of the best bass boxes you can buy for a serious music and movies set-up.	A150	-	-	-	65.42.33	Bk
REL Acoustics Q400E	1000	★★★★★	Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. It's not too big, but it sounds positively gigantic.	A400	-	-	-	42.39.43	Bk
REL Acoustics Stadium III	1500	★★★★★	Oct 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Just the job for large-room home cinema and h-fi systems.	A200	-	-	-	56.59.39	Va
Sonus Faber Gravis	999	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Beautifully built product that works superbly.	A300	-	-	-	42.37.42	Bk
Velodyne VX-10	250	★★★★☆	Jul 03	Inexpensive way to get serious bass punch with movies. Less impressive as an all-rounder.	A100	-	-	-	38.30.43	Gy
Velodyne CHT-12	525	★★★★☆	May 02	One for the bigger space - great for movies, but a little OTT with music.	A175	-	-	-	45.38.53	Bk
Velodyne SPL-800	925	★★★★☆	Oct 02	If you want a tiny subwoofer with massive muscle, look no further.	A600	-	-	-	27.26.30	2
VIBE Alpha One	300	★★☆☆☆	Jun 02	Compact and generates lots of welly, but it's too raucous and bloated for our tastes.	A200	-	-	-	30.32.36	2
Wharfedale PowerCube PC-10A	200	★★★☆☆	Oct 02	Crunching movie action for not much money but it is marred by input hum.	A100	-	-	-	39.34.34	2
Yamaha YST-SW215	180	★★☆☆☆	Oct 03	The price makes it tempting, but performance is well below par.	A150	-	-	-	29.36.32	Bk
Yamaha YST-SW315	270	★★★☆☆	Sep 03	Decent enough subwoofer, though it is not quite good enough to excite.	A270	-	-	-	24.59.45	Bk

KEY | **Power rating** For active subwoofers, refers to the power output of the internal amplifier. For passive subs, refers to recommended maximum power handling. **Sensitivity (passive speakers)** The higher the figure, the louder the speaker will sound at a given amplifier setting. **Impedance (passive speakers)** Measured in ohms, shows how hard the speaker is for an amplifier to drive. **Biwirable** Can they be biwired (see Glossary)? **Size** Will it fit? Height x width x depth, measured in cms.

Surround speaker packages

Up to £4500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power ratings	Min sensitivity	Min impedence	Finishes
AAD E30/E6	495	★★★★☆	Dec 02	This system really kicks, delivering punchy sound but can be too one-dimensional.	100x5/A70	87/87/87	8/8/8	2
✪ Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3B	950	★★★★★	Jul 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Exceptional, if you can cope with their size.	150/150/100/A150	90/91/89	8/8/8	3
Anthony Gallo Nucleus Micro	1250	★★☆☆☆	Jan 03	The dinky satellites are a style guru's dream but cheaper rivals offer superior sound.	100x5/A240	89/89/89	8/8/8	8
ATC Concept 1	2000	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Relatively compact, but capable of sounding huge if your amp is up to the task.	300x5/A250	84/84/84	8/8/8	3
B&W VM1/AS1	850	★★★★☆	Sep 03	An excellent package in lots of ways, but newer rivals have eclipsed it.	100/85	91/A85	8/8	3
B&W DM300 package	900	★★★★★	Feb 03	May be too big for some rooms but for all-out performance this is a superb set-up.	125/100/100/A100	88/90/88	8/8/8	2
B&W DM600 package	1000	★★★★★	Jul 02	Beautiful and sounds great - if you have the space, these speakers have the quality.	150/120/100	90/88/88	8/8/8	3
B&W DM 603 S3 System	1850	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Requires a lot of space to be heard at its best but the sub amazes.	150x7/A500	90x7	8/8/8	2
Bose Acoustimass 6 Mk 2	550	★★★☆☆	Feb 03	Has cuteness on its side and it works adequately at very modest volume settings.	50x5	-/-/-	8/8/8	2
Bose Acoustimass 10 Mk III	700	★★★☆☆	Sep 03	Fair-sounding package and it's very, very small indeed, subwoofer apart.	100x5	-	4-8	2
Bose Acoustimass 15 Series II	1050	★★★★☆	Feb 03	Delivers thrills without filling the room with boxes - unusual but seamless soundfield.	100x5	-/-/-	4-8	2
Boston Digital Theater 6000	499	★★★★☆	Aug 99	Incredibly compact speakers and active sub with digital surround decoder.	A100	-	-	Bk
Boston Acoustics Micro 9000	1000	★★★★☆	May 01	Highly competitive, beautifully made and performs well in multichannel use.	125/125/100/A75	89/90/86	8/8/8	Bk
Boston Acous. VR940/910/VRS	1200	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Intriguing, but not complete enough - it does some things well, but it lacks panache.	125/150/100	89/89/85	8/8/8	Bk
Canton Movie 10-MX II	349	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Eminently affordable, very stylish and certainly fun to listen to.	70/80/70/A100	85/87/85	4/4/4	3
Canton Movie CD 1	479	★★★★★	Awd 03	Tiny movie surround kit at a great price - an outstanding option.	150x5	86/85/86	4/4/4	4
Canton Karat	2866	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Highly impressive - a lot of speaker for your money and a decent level of ability, too.	80x5/A100	85/86/85	4/4/4	Al
Dynaudio Audience 62/42C/42	1347	★★★★★	Jul 02	Fantastic - partner with decent kit and you won't feel short-changed by the sound.	150x5	86/85/86	4/4/4	4
Elac Cinema One 5.1	399	★★★★★	Dec 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Stylish, affordable and it works.	120x5/A55	84/84/84	6/6/6	2
Elac Cinema XL	499	★★★☆☆	Mar 03	Good-looking but its average performance is eclipsed by the Elac Cinema One.	120/150/120/A55	85/87/85	6/6/6	Sl
Elac Cinema 3 ESP	999	★★★☆☆	Feb 03	Sleek and beautifully made, but fail to deliver the performance their price demands.	50x5/A80	86/86/86	4/4/4	Al
Eltax Liberty (with bipolar rears)	750	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Affordable route to big-sounding surround sound, and stereo music sounds good too.	A175/130/130	-/87/87	-/8/8	2
Energy Take 5	400	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Still effective, but no longer class-leading.	100x5	88/88/88	8/8/8	Bk
Energy Take 5.2/S8.2	599	★★★☆☆	Feb 03	Good-looking, but it lacks all-out welly and never quite stops sounding small.	100x5/A100	89/89/89	4/4/4	Bk
Focal-JM Lab Sib & Cub	859	★★★★☆	Feb 03	Cute satellite speakers and a sub - good, but some way off being a class-leader.	75x5/A75	90/90/90	6/6/6	2
Gale HT30.1	300	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Bood price but the powerful enough subwoofer sounds muffled instead of tight.	80x5/A65	85/87/85	8/8/8	2
Heybrook HB3 package	980	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Strong value, a superb option for some - best with aggressive-sounding receivers.	90/75/70/A150	90/90/89	6/6/6	2
Infinity Oreus sub/sat package	700	★★★★★	Mar 03	Breathtaking design that successfully combines great sound with bags of appeal.	100x5/A100	85/85/85	6/6/6	Sl
Jamo A330 PDD.3	399	★★★☆☆	Aug 01	Largely competent with decent sound at low volume levels, but rivals do it better.	75x5/A100	90/90/90	6/6/6	15
Jamo A410PDD	649	★★★★☆	Jun 02	Attractive package with very slim satellites and a sub - seriously room-friendly.	50x5/A100	88/88/88	6/6/6	3
Jamo D830PDD	3195	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Most of the virtues of top-quality home cinema, and it sounds great with music too.	120/110/150	90/91/90	4/4/6	Ch
Jamo D7PEX	4499	★★★★☆	Feb 03	Seven-speakers and two-subs - good value sofa-shaking sound even at this price.	200x3/100/A400	89/89/87	4/4/4	Gry
KEF Coda 90/80/70	730	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Good, solid buy and a very contemporary look into the bargain.	125/100/70	91/91/91	8/8/8	2
✪ KEF KHT 2005.2	800	★★★★★	Sep 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Effortlessly desirable and easy to install.	100x5/A250	88/88/88	8/8/8	2
KEF Q1/Q9C/PSW2000	1000	★★★★☆	Jul 02	High-quality and very capable, but for outright welly it can't match heftier rivals.	120x5/A250	91/91/91	8/8/8	3
✪ KEF Q7 AV	2300	★★★★★	Aug 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Highly competent with everything you want to play.	175/120x5/A250	91x7	8x7	3
KEF TDM 23F/23C/34DS/45B	2700	★★★★★	Feb 99	Bags of bass and drive means they get close to real cinema sound.	200/200/150	90/90/88	4/4/4	Bk
Klegg M6-5.01	399	★★★☆☆	Jun 02	Tiny egg-shaped speakers that will win fans, but its sonic performance lags behind.	30x5/A50	89/89/89	6/6/6	3
✪ M&K K-5 package	1715	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. For those looking for great sound from small cabinets.	200x3/A75	-/-/-	8/8/8	3
M&K 750THX	2715	★★★★★	Jun 99	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Absolutely stunning home cinema performance.	200x5	90/90/NA	4/4/8	Bk
✪ M&K 850/CS35/V-850	3900	★★★★★	Jul 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Highly innovative - works well in a tight space.	200x5/A125	91/91/90	4/4/4	3
Mirage Omnisats SE/OM200	1695	★★★★☆	Feb 03	We like the Omnisat concept - there's real benefits for home cinema applications.	150x5/A200	89/89/89	8/8/8	4

RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Power ratings	Min sensitivity	Min impedance	Finishes
Mission m7s	400	★★★☆☆	Feb 03	Uniquely shaped satellites and sub - appealing, but the performance is average.	100x5/A100	88/88/88	8/8/8	Sl
Mission Cinema m72	400	★★★★★	Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Brilliant and affordable surround system.	100x5	89/87/89	8/8/8	2
Mission fs1-AV	450	★★★★☆	Dec 02	For its market this stylish NXT package is just right, but there is no shortage of rivals.	100x5/A100	88/88/88	8/8/8	Sl
Mission Cinema m70	480	★★★★★	Dec 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Sounds great in stereo and multichannel.	75x5/A100	87/87/87	8/8/8	4
Mission fs2-AV	600	★★★★★	May 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Five NXT satellite speakers and a sub - sensational.	75x5	86/86/86	8/8/8	Ne
Mission Cinema 7	800	★★★★★	Oct 99	Product of the Year in the 1999 Awards. Great value and easy to live with.	130/130/75	88/88/90	8/8/8	3
Mission Cinema m74	880	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Exceptional value, home cinema performance is great - you won't buy more bass.	150/125/100	91/89/89	8/8/8	2
Mission Cinema 8	1400	★★★★★	Jun 01	Wonderfully cohesive, compact and elegant. Plays all forms of music with verve.	200/200/150	89/87/87	8/8/8	3
Mission 78se series	2650	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Highly effective tweaks make the 78-series sing - the 'se' system is well worth a look.	200/150x5/A250	89/87/87	6/8/8	2
MJ Acoustics Pro Cinema 1/Pro 50	799	★★★★☆	Feb 03	For those who want small, conventional speakers, this makes a good choice.	100x5	88/88/88	8/8/8	4
Monitor Audio Bronze B4 System	950	★★★★★	Sep 03	Great-value system, with a superb blend of abilities for its price and fine styling.	150/120/80	91/91/88	6/8/6	3
Monitor Audio S6x6AV	2050	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Delivers a thoroughly coherent sound for multichannel music in particular.	120x7	91/91/91	6/6/6	3
Monitor Audio GR20 AV	2800	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Quality package with plenty of appeal. Needs space to work effectively.	150/150/100	89/90/88	6/8/6	4
Mordaunt-Short Premiere	400	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Sounds good without being intrusive - strong performance in stereo and surround.	80x5/A80	86/87/86	4/4/4	3
Mordaunt-Short Premiere Plus	550	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Better than the Premiere package but not as much as the price would suggest.	80x5/A150	86/87/86	4/4/4	3
Mordaunt-Short 500 THX Select	1600	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Top-quality multichannel package at a sensible price.	150x5/A150x2	90/90/90	4/4/8	3
Mordaunt-Short 500 THX (7 spk)	1780	★★★★☆	Aug 03	With two extra speakers this package remains a great movies-first buy.	150x7/A150x2	90/90/90	4/4/8	3
Quadral Surround 1280 MkII	370	★★★☆☆	Feb 03	Reasonably composed but ultimately this system plays it too safe.	90/90/100/A40	86/86/86	8/8/8	2
Quadral Ascent Surround	1600	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Plenty of weight, but lacks the resolution to dig details out of movies or music.	120/115/100/A120	87/87/86	8/8/8	4
Richard Allan AV Micra	303	★★★★★	Awd 94	Ridiculously affordable system with five speakers and subwoofer unit.	40x5	86/86/86	8/8/8	Gy
Richard Allan AV-1 System	384	★★★★★	Jun 94	Bargain six-pack AV speaker collection. Good bass weight and involving sound.	50/40/40	87/86/86	8/8/8	Gy
Richard Allan AV-1 SE	499	★★★★☆	Oct 96	A fine starter AV kit which boasts a big sound and strong build	50/70/40	87/90/86	8/8/8	Gy
Richard Allan Minette 2/Dim Sub	698	★★★★☆	Dec 96	This stereo combination of satellites with tall portly Dimension sub certainly works.	100/A120	87	8	Gy
Ruark Acoustics Vita 120	1700	★★★★☆	Awd 03	If you want a small stylish package for music and movies this may well appeal.	100x5/A120	86/88/86	8/6/8	2
Ruark Contemporary Prologue	2920	★★★★★	Oct 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Prologue II/Dialogue II/Epilogue II/Log-Rhythm 150.	150/120/100/A150	90/89/87	8/6/6	4
Ruark Acoustics Prologue II(7 sk)	3165	★★★★☆	Aug 03	As Award winning system but with extra Epilogue II surrounds - appealing solution.	150/120x4/A150	90/89/87	8/6/6	4
Spendor S6 system	2950	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Outstanding for multichannel music, and highly competent with movies.	100/80x5	88/88/85	8/6/8	4
Tannoy FX 5.1	480	★★★★☆	Dec 02	Impressive, and effective with atmospheric soundtracks - comparatively expensive.	100x5	85/85/85	6/6/6	2
Tannoy Eyris	2250	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Better for music applications, including multichannel, than for movies.	150/125/75	90/89/88	8/8/8	2
Titan Logic	3100	★★★☆☆	May 03	Different and laudable in some ways, but it's up against stiff competition.	100x5/A200	87/88/87	8/8/8	6
Velodyne Deco	999	★★★★☆	Sep 03	Competent , if a little pricey, but the subwoofer is too powerful for its own good.	150x5/A600	88/88/88	4/4/4	Gy
Wharfedale Diamond Cinema	400	★★★★★	Sep 01	Fantastic solution, the speakers sound and look more expensive than their price.	100x5	86/88/86	6/6/6	2
Wharfedale Evolution Cinema	1150	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Great performer in many ways - add a sub and you're in business, but that'll cost you.	200/100/200	89/89/88	6/6/6	3

KEY | **Power rating** The maximum power handling of the speakers, in the order Left/right, centre, rear, subwoofer. An 'A' indicates that an active subwoofer is provided and the figure after is the power of the built in amplifier. **Minimum sensitivity** The higher the figure, the louder the speakers will sound at a given amplifier setting. **Minimum impedance** Measured in ohms, shows how hard the speakers are for an amplifier to drive. **Finishes** The number of finishes available or Bk=Black, BA=Black Ash, Ch=Cherry, Gy=Grey, Gp=Graphite, Mh=Mahogany, Wt= White or Va= Various

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PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	DVD Player	Digital In	Power	Modes	Speakers
Acoustic Energy Aego P5	500	★★★★★	Apr 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. For style and sound quality you can't beat at this price.	No	2	125	D/S	5+S
Creative Labs Inspire Dig 5700	250	★★★★★	Jun 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Provides excellent decoding and a powerful sound.	No	3	A7x4/A21/A30	D/S	5+S
Denon ADV-M71	570	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Great small-room cinema solution for people who hate surround systems.	Yes	2	25x2	S/2/V	2
Denon ADV-1000/SC-50	900	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Durable, classy, refined and effective - a system that does what it says on the tin.	Yes	1	55x5	D/S/2	5+S
Denon AV-F100 (NXT spkrs)	1200	★★★★★	Mar 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Combination of exquisite design and convenience.	Yes	2	5x25/A50	D/T	5+S

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- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Five Stars for Value

Does the best price always mean the best deal? Ask our top twenty UK specialist hi-fi dealers.

"I thought I had this buying hi-fi business sorted out. I bought all the hi-fi magazines and read them thoroughly, because I reckoned their experts knew exactly what they were talking about - at least a lot more than I did! It was reassuring to see the same product names cropping up regularly and I figured the writers' experience and guidance would steer me straight to the system of my dreams. The trouble is I've ended up more confused than when I started".

One reviewer said a product I fancied was absolutely brilliant but another said it was nothing special at all. How can that be? Surely one CD player is pretty much the same as another? And how can a loudspeaker that's one magazine's top recommendation not get so much as a mention in any of the others? I don't mind admitting it, I'm completely lost."

Plan B - I'm going for a deal

"So, I've decided to adopt plan B. I'm sure there can't be any really dramatic differences between all this gear and it's all bound to work together properly, so I'm going to check the price lists and the adverts and shop around for the best deal. I know getting the right hi-fi is important hey, I'm as mad about music as anyone but if I can get close to the mark and save a few quid, I'm sure I'll end up with a good system and be happy. I know there are specialist shops out there that do demonstrations and reckon they've got all the solutions but, to be honest, I'm a bit scared of going to one. I'd really welcome some advice and guidance but I don't know all the technical jargon and I'd feel daft sitting there trying to 'hear the differences' if I couldn't. Anyway, a friend told me that these shops only sell the really expensive gear and that they're not interested if you don't have loads of money to spend."

And so another hi-fi buyer starts his journey down the road to dissatisfaction, endless upgrades and a permanent overdraft.

There is only one way to buy a hi-fi system that will prove satisfying, reliable and deliver true value for money, and that's through a specialist hi-fi dealer. Let's face it, you wouldn't think about buying a car if you couldn't take it for a test drive. You wouldn't buy a house solely on the strength of seeing the estate agent's details and a photograph. Even if you're spending far less, say buying a jacket or a pair of shoes, you want to try them on to make sure they fit you.

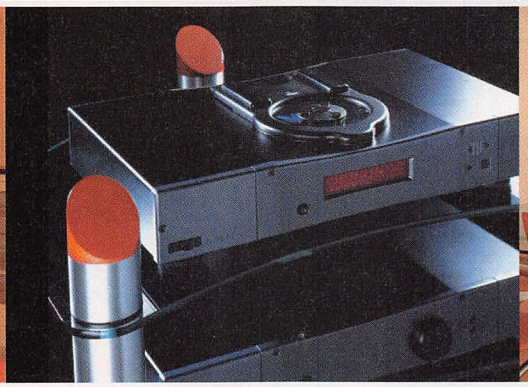
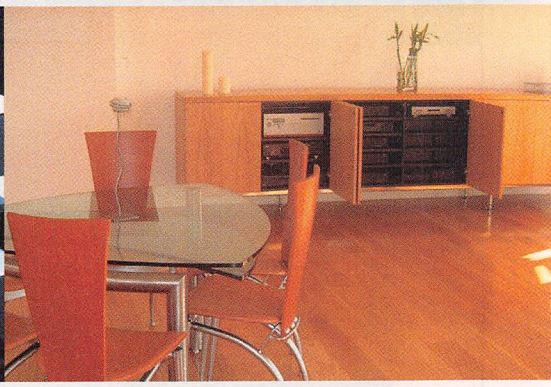
Buying a hi-fi system is no different. It doesn't matter what the specifications say or what the 'experts' think: if it doesn't measure up to what you want from a system, then it's not the right choice. Knowing that you've bought a room full of five-star favourites or best-buys is no consolation when you can't bear to listen to them for more than five minutes. Even that ten per cent discount on the price won't make them sound any better.

Buying or being sold to?

Mind you, most of us are easily suckered when it comes to buying hi-fi. Given the choice of venturing into the unknown territory of a specialist dealer's shop and exerting some influence over what we buy, or taking what looks like the easy route having adverts and magazine reviews push us along a path sweetened with discounts and special offers - we opt for the latter. We don't buy a system, we allow ourselves to be sold one. We side-line our own ideas about quality and personal satisfaction and buy someone else's opinion of what's good for us and good value for our money.

Take control!

Now there's a group of long-established, independent specialist dealers who are

> "You wouldn't think about buying a car if you couldn't take it for a test drive. You wouldn't buy a house solely on the strength of seeing the estate agent's details."

totally committed to putting the customer back in the driving seat. They're encouraging the buyer to take control with a little help and guidance provided where required. They know how difficult it can be to establish the true quality and worth of hi-fi and home cinema systems. They know that without experiencing the performance of the systems they offer, you can't possibly assess the value of them. That's why their idea of 'selling' is to play the systems for you and allow you to be the judge.

Listening to your choice of music in a peaceful, well organised demonstration room, you may be surprised and, almost certainly, relieved to discover how easy it is to hear the differences between components and between systems. With the dealer's help and advice you will be able to make a clear and informed decision about what to buy. It comes down to trusting your own judgement rather than the opinion of a reviewer you've never met ... and who won't refund your money if you're not satisfied or be at the end of a phone to sort out any problems you might encounter.

The story doesn't end there. These shops won't abandon you once you've put your hand into your pocket. They won't leave you to set up the system you've selected as best you can. They'll install it in your home, make sure it sounds great, and make sure that you're entirely happy with the way it works.

Why bother?

There is, of course, one question that hasn't been answered: why should you and these dealers go to all this trouble? Well, from your point of view maybe it's because a good deal is about a great deal more than just price. unless you've got money to burn, you'll be living with your new system for years - years during which most of those five star products will probably stop shining quite so brightly. As far as the dealers are concerned, maybe they believe that taking care of their customers properly is a nicer way of doing business than just handing over boxes.

Listed below are 20 of the best hi-fi shops in the country. They all have lots of stars. You'll find them on the shop floor: they're the people waiting to guide customers towards hi-fi that will give them years of musical enjoyment and total satisfaction.

STAR QUALITIES

VALUE FOR MONEY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
SERVICE	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
FACILITIES	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
VERDICT	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

OUR TOP 20 UK SPECIALIST HI-FI DEALERS

LONDON

N1 GRAHAMS HI-FI
190a New North Road
020 7226 5500

SW11 ORANGES & LEMONS
61/63 Webbs Road, Battersea
020 7924 2043

SOUTH

Ashford, Kent
SOUNDCRAFT HI-FI
40 High St. 01233 624441

Chelmsford RAYLEIGH HI-FI
216 Moulsham Street
01245 265245

East Grinstead
AUDIO DESIGNS
26 High St. 01342 314569

Horsham AUDIO DESIGNS
7-9 Park Place
01403 252255

Kingston-upon-Thames
INFIDELITY
9 High Street Hampton Wick
020 8943 3530

Rayleigh, Essex
RAYLEIGH HI-FI
44a High St. 01268 779762

Ringwood, Hampshire
PHONOGRAPHY
Star Lane 01425 461230

Southend-on-Sea
RAYLEIGH HI-FI
132/4 London Road
01702 435255

Southampton PHASE 3 HI-FI
37 Bedford Place
023 8022 8434

Worthing PHASE 3 HI-FI
213-217 Tarring Road
01903 708810

MIDLANDS

Banbury OVERTURE
3 Church Lane
01295 272158

Birmingham SOUND ACADEMY
152a High Street, Bloxwich
01922 493499

Coventry Frank Harvey
163 Spon Street
024 7652 5200

Leicester CYMBIOSIS
6 Hotel St. 0116 262 3754

Northampton LISTEN INN
32 Gold St. 01604 637871

Shrewsbury CREATIVE AUDIO
9 Dogpole 01743 241924

NORTH

Cheadle THE AUDIO WORKS
14 Stockport Road
0161 428 7887

Oldham AUDIO COUNSEL
12/14 Shaw Road
0161 633 2602

Sheffield
MOORGATE ACOUSTICS
184 Fitzwilliam St
0114 275 6048

York SOUND ORGANISATION
2 Gillygate 01904 627108

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh
RUSS ANDREWS HI-FI
34 Northumberland Street
0131 557 1672

Glasgow STEREO STEREO
260 St. Vincent Street
0141 248 4079

N. IRELAND

Belfast LYRIC HI-FI
429-431 Lisburn Road
028 90 381296

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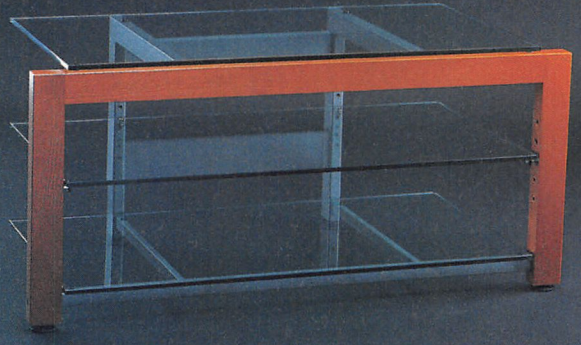

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Rusholme
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PHILIPS	DVD+R	1.45
	in video box	1.79
	DVD+RW	1.95
	in video box	2.49

for "Pioneer & Panasonic"

FUJI	DVD-R	1.45
MAXELL	DVD-R video box	2.25

for "Pioneer" System

JVC	DVD-RW	2.25

for "Panasonic" System

JVC	DVD RAM	5.99
MAXELL	DVD RAM in video box - *No caddy*	4.75
MAXELL	DVD RAM 9.4Gb	7.95

80mm DVD for Hitachi 'corder
State Round or Square Caddy

MAXELL	DVD-R 1.4Gb	5.95
	DVD RAM 2.8Gb	12.95

Memory Cards

FUJI		
Smart Media	32mb	6.95
	64mb	10.95
	128mb	19.95
Compact Flash	32mb	10.95
	64mb	13.95
	128mb	21.95
	256mb	39.95
Multi Media	32mb	12.95
	64mb	16.95
Secure Digital	64mb	19.95
	128mb	35.95
XD Picture	32mb	12.95
	64mb	22.95
	128mb	43.95
Memory Stick	64mb	24.95
	128mb	39.95

Key-Ring USB Memory

Plug into your PC for instant file handling	32mb	19.95
VERBATIM	64mb	32.95
Store 'n Go	128mb	54.95
	256mb	109.95

Batteries

Alkaline			
MAXELL	LR6-4 AA	*4 pk*	0.65
	LR03-4 AAA	*4 pk*	0.79
	6LF-22 9V	*each*	0.75
	LR14 - type C	*2 pk*	0.75
	LR20 - type D	*2 pk*	1.05
DURACELL	MN1500	*12 pk*	3.45
Lithium			
MAXELL	CR-123A		1.29
	CR2		1.49
	2CR-5		2.75
	CR-P2		2.75
	CR2016, CR2025 & CR2032		0.25
AMARAY	VHS & DVD box		0.45

TDK CD/DVD PRINTER
with black ribbon, USB connection & software poa

Replacement ink ribbons

Blue, Red, Black or Silver		5.45
Buy 3 for		14.95

CD-R Audio

JVC	CD-R 74	0.39
	CD-R 80	0.42
	- 25 spindle	8.79
TDK	CD-RXG 74	0.45
	CD-RXG 80	0.49
VERBATIM	CD-R 80	0.39

Re-writable

VERBATIM	CD-RW 74	0.95
	CD-RW 80	0.99

700mb CD-R 800mb

TDK	CD-R80 D-View	0.33
	CD-R80 silver blank	0.34
	CD-R80 Speed-X	0.35
	HC-R90 800mb - *with slimmer track pitch*	0.69
TDK	CD-R80 - 50 spindle	9.95

Re-writable

MAXELL	CD-RW 80	0.55
TDK	CD-RW700 *hi speed*	0.65

VIDEO

DIGITAL VIDEO

JVC	DVM 60	2.15
	DVM 80	3.95
PANASONIC	DVM 60	2.15
	DVM 63 Pro	3.45
SONY	DVM 60 PR	2.29
	DVM 60+chip	6.45
TDK	DVM 60	2.15
	Mini DV Cleaner	

Larger Format & DV-Cam

SONY	DV 180 + chip	16.45
	PDV 184 N	21.95

VIDEO 8

SONY	P5-90 MP *std*	1.49
FUJI	P5-90 SHG	1.69

Hi-8 suitable for Digital 8

FUJI	P5-90 HMP	2.75
	E5-90 HME	3.95

VHS & S-VHS COMPACT

FUJI	EC 45 HQ	1.25
	EC 45 SHG	1.45
MAXELL	SEC 45 XR-S	2.29

VHS SYSTEM

MEMOREX	E240 SHQ	0.79
JVC	E180 SX	0.79
	E240 SX	0.89
KONICA	E30 SSG	0.65
	E60 SSG	0.68
	E120 SSG	0.69
	E180 SSG	0.72
	E240 SSG	0.95
TDK	E180 HS	0.99
	E240 HS	1.20
	E300 HS	3.25

VHS - High Grade

FUJI	E60 SHG	1.39
	E120 SHG	1.45
	E180 SHG	1.49
	E240 SHG	1.79
FUJI	Hi-Fi *in library case*	
	E180 Hi-Fi	1.75
	E240 Hi-Fi	2.25
MAXELL	E30 GX	0.75
	E60 GX	0.85
	E120 GX	0.95
	E180 GX	1.05
	E240 GX	1.25
TDK	E180 EHG	1.75
	E240 EHG	2.15

VHS - Professional
in library case

FUJI	E30 Super XG	3.25
	E120 Super XG	3.75
	E180 Super XG	4.25

S-VHS

FUJI	SE-30 PRO	3.35
	SE-60 PRO	3.45
	SE-120 PRO	3.47
	SE-180 PRO	3.49
	SE-240 PRO	4.95
JVC	SE-180 SV	2.45
	SE-240 SV	3.45
TDK	SE-180 XP-B	3.95
	SE-240 XP-B	5.45
	SE-180 XP-PRO	5.45
	SE-240 XP-PRO	6.45

D-VHS

MAXELL	DF300 31.7 Gb	6.95
	DF420 44.5 Gb	13.95

CCTV Security

FUJI	E180 HQ+ CCTV	1.25
	SE-180 CCTV	3.75

Cassettes

'Ferric'

MAXELL	UR 46	0.28
	UR 60	0.29
	UR 90	0.31
	UR 120	0.45
TDK	D 60	0.35
	D 90	0.39
	D 120	0.99

'Chrome'

MAXELL	UDII 90 *5 pack*	1.95
	XLII 60	0.55
	XLII 90	0.59
	XLII 120	0.79
	XLII-S 100	0.95
TDK	SA 90	0.65

'Metal'

MAXELL	CD 60	0.95

4mm DAT

MAXELL	DM 46 4mm	2.25
	DM 60 4mm	2.45
	DM 90 4mm	2.95
	DM 120 4mm	3.25
	DM 180 4mm	4.75

Zip & Floppy

FUJI	ZIP 100mb PC	5.95
	ZIP 250mb PC	7.95
	MF2HD 10pk	1.49

Mini Disc

MAXELL	MD 80	0.65
SONY	MDW 74	0.65
	MDW 80	-----
TDK	MD 80	0.69

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Home cinema in a box

Up to £2500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	DVD Player	Digital In	Power	Modes	Speakers
Hitachi HTD-K160	340	★★★☆☆	Apr 03	Good picture and big bass for your bucks, but bright treble can irritate.	Yes	2	50x5/A100	D/S	5+S
JVC TH-A5R	400	★★☆☆☆	Sep 02	Good-looking, but it doesn't have the grunt for action scenes and CD replay is lacklustre.	Yes	0	35x5	D/S	5+S
JVC TH-V70R	700	★★☆☆☆	Oct 02	Looks good, but its mediocre performance fails to justify the £700 pricetag.	Yes	1	30/x5/A140	D/S/2	5+S
Klegg M6 501R	399	★★★☆☆	Jun 02	Tiny egg-shaped speakers that will win fans, but its sonic performance lags behind.	No	0	30x5/A50	No	5+S
Klegg M6-501P	549	★★★☆☆	Apr 03	Sexy package with a separate decoder - not the ideal partner for a long-term relationship.	No	2	30x5/A50	D/S	5+S
Klegg M8 501	700	★★★★★	Jan 03	Comprehensive and highly competent package with good power and drive.	No	2	100x5/A100	D/S/2	5+S
Lecson 950	200	★★★☆☆	May 03	Affordable route into surround sound or a second system for the household.	Yes	2	20x5	D/S	5+S
Linn Classic Movie system	1995	★★★☆☆	Feb 03	DVD/CD player/AV receiver in one small box - limited video performance is a letdown.	Yes	0	40	D/S	No
NAD L70	699	★★☆☆☆	Awd 03	For this price you can buy a DVD player and receiver that will outform the L70.	Yes	2	45x5	D/S/2	No
NAD L55/L75	1000	★★★★☆	Oct 01	DVD/CD player and receiver - scores on both style and function.	Yes	3	40x5	D/S	No
Niro Two 6.1	2000	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Intriguing surround solution - 6.1sound using just two speaker boxes plus a sub.	No	4	150	D/S/X	2+S
Onkyo DV-L5/TX-L5/MB-S1	2200	★★★★☆	May 02	Impressive, stylish units with a superb recording system - includes a 20Gb hard-disc unit.	Yes	5	22x5	2/D/S	No
Panasonic SC-DT310E	450	★★★★☆	Sep 03	Seriously stylish, two system units and large front speakers and also DVD Audio decoding.	Yes	1	60x5/A100	D/2/S	5+S
Pioneer XV-DV313/S-DV313	320	★★★☆☆	Sep 03	Bulky system that does very little to tempt us, even at its very reasonable price.	Yes	1	75x5/A75	D/S/2	5+S
Pioneer DCS-303	450	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Great home-cinema solution for the money. Subwoofer needs careful positioning.	Yes	1	62x5/A62	D/S/2	5+S
✪ Pioneer DV565A/C501-S	650	★★★★★	Awd 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Slimline DVD player and receiver.	Yes	4	100x6	X/S/2	No
Pioneer NS-DV88	700	★★★☆☆	Dec 01	Despite a good effort on movie soundtracks it falls short on picture quality and music.	Yes	2	30x5	D/S	5+S
Pioneer NS-DV1000	1200	★★★☆☆	Mar 03	Stunning picture but the sound fails to live up to it making the price too steep.	Yes	3	75x5	D/2/S	5+S
Pure Digital DigiTheatre DTS Plat	399	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Great-value product - performs impressively, surpassing some of its pricier rivals	No	2	30x5/A70	D/S	5+S
Pure Digital Life 4/10	2499	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Excellent-quality AV amp/speaker kit that's flexible and performs well.	No	2	45x5/A250	D/2/S	5+S
Samsung HT-DL100	349	★★★☆☆	Jun 02	Well-priced all-in-one, but it's not great at digging up details.	Yes	0	40x5/70	D/S	5+S
Scan AV-6	175	★★★☆☆	Jun 02	More PC than hi-fi, but it's a cost-effective, if slightly uninspiring surround solution.	No	2	8x5/23	D/S	5+S
Sharp SD-AT1000H	300	★★★☆☆	Sep 03	Heavy sound won't appeal to all, but budget-strapped bass heads may love it.	No	1	100x7	D,S,2	5+S
Sony DAV-SA30	400	★★★☆☆	Sep 03	Solid and stylish but the picture is average and the sound is bright and superficial.	Yes	0	44x5/A80	D/S/2	5+S
Sony HTP-1000	450	★★★☆☆	Jan 03	Ho-hum rather than oh-wow - does the job, but little more.	Yes	3	35x5	S/2/X	5
Sony DAV-S550	600	★★★★★	Apr 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Outstanding all-round stylish system.	Yes	1	35x5/A70	D/S	5+S
Sony AVD-S50	750	★★★★☆	Mar 03	Integrated DVD receiver - good-looking, well made and highly capable.	Yes	3	80x5	D/S/2	No
TEAC Reference 350 A/V	700	★★★★★	Jun 02	Superior picture quality, surround sound and good audio from two slim elegant boxes.	Yes	0	50	D/S	No
TEAC DV-H550/AG-H550	850	★★★★★	Jan 02	Mini-sized DVD-Video player and AV receiver - a cracking little set-up.	Yes	3	55x5	D/S	No
✪ TEAC Legacy 700/LS-L800	1100	★★★★★	Jan 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Outstanding picture performance and great sound	Yes	3	30x5/A100	D/S/2	5+S
TEAC Legacy 700/LS-L800	1300	★★★★☆	Awd 03	Another cracking system from TEAC with just the right mix of style and substance.	Yes	3	50x5/A100	D/S/2	5+S
Toshiba SD-43HK	280	★★★☆☆	Sep 03	Unimpressive but considering the price and the fact that it works it's still a decent buy.	Yes	1	50x5/A70	D/S/2	5+S
Yamaha DVX-S80	699	★★★★☆	Jan 03	Looks good, sounds good, and provides decent pictures - good value too.	Yes	3	33x5/A40	D/S/2	5+S

KEY | DVD Player Does it need a DVD player, or is one included? **Digital in** Optical or coaxial digital sockets for connecting digital sources such as DVD and CD players. **Power** In the order left/right, centre, rear, subwoofer. **Modes** P=Pro-Logic, 2=Prologic II, D=Pro-Logic & Dolby Digital, S=DTS, T=THX, X=Pro-Logic, Dolby Digital & Dolby Digital EX, E=DTS & DTS ES. **Speakers** How many are provided? So 5+S means it comes with five speakers and a subwoofer.

Televisions

Up to £5500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Screen size	System	Power	Features	SCART
Bush WS6673	299	★★★★☆	Sep 01	Great value - a decent combination of picture and sound at an almost giveaway price.	W	28	CRT	5	-	2
Bush RF6682VPL	400	★★★★☆	Jul 03	Budget box in a class of its own - you won't find this much technology for a better price.	W	28	CRT	2x10	DV	2
Bush DVD760 TV	799	★★★★☆	Sep 01	DVD and television in one - appeals on price but separates would give better performance.	W	32	CRT	8	-	2
Finlux 82X200 MC++	823	★★★☆☆	May 03	Would make a decent home-cinema display but it's let down by poor off-air performance.	W	32	CRT	2x20	-	3
Goodmans GTV69W5	330	★★★★☆	Nov 02	Solid value, and with some adjustment, a good picture balance. Sound is nothing special.	W	28	CRT	2x8	-	2
Goodmans GTV69W2DT	430	★★★★☆	Jul 03	Affordable route into widescreen digital television as it has a digital receiver built-in.	W	28	CRT	2x12	-	2
JVC AV-24WT5EKS	400	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Decent enough, but lacks both clarity of image and sonic oomph.	W	24	CRT	2x10	-	3
JVC AV-28T25S	550	★★★★★	Jul 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Still a class leader - superb picture and good Nicam sound.	W	28	CRT	2x10	-	3
JVC AV-32R25EKS	900	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Great picture, but we'd spend less on the lovely JVC Nicam model without fake surround.	W	32	CRT	25/15/15	P	3
JVC AV-32X37	950	★★★☆☆	Awd 03	Essentially a good TV, but a few more quid will give you something a bit more special.	W	32	CRT	2x10	-	3
JVC HV-32D25	1200	★★★★☆	Jun 03	Sounds great but the picture is a bit of a letdown considering the strong specifications.	W	32	CRT	5x10	D	3
LG DI-28FZ11	599	★★★☆☆	May 03	Bargain TV with integrated digital but we'd buy a five-star set and a £99 digital adapter.	W	28	CRT	2x7	iDV	3
LG Electronics RE28FZ10	599	★★☆☆☆	Jul 03	Good value a year ago but classy new rivals mean it no longer justifies its price tag.	W	28	CRT	2x12	-	2
Loewe Aventos 3981 ZW	1149	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Well-designed and it sounds great - just pipped for picture by the best of its rivals.	W	32	CRT	-	-	3
Loewe Aconda 93102 ZW	2100	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Great resolution and sound, but distortions result from the tube's hefty curvature.	W	40	CRT	2x40	-	3
Loewe Aconda 9581 Select	5150	★★★☆☆	Dec 01	Stylish and comes with a stand and four speakers. Great TV, but sound lets it down.	W	32	CRT	40	-	3
✪ Panasonic TX-28PS1	500	★★★★★	Jul 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Wonderful flatscreen picture and respectable specifications.	W	28	CRT	2x7	-	2
Panasonic TX32-DT4	950	★★★★☆	Sep 03	Digital and analogue tuning - superb digital TV picture plus good Nicam stereo.	W	32	CRT	7x2	-	2
✪ Panasonic TX-36PD30	1700	★★★★★	Sep 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Pure picture pleasure.	W	36	CRT	-	DV	4
Philips 28PW6006	450	★★★★☆	Jul 03	Fine television with a good picture and acceptable sound - but now a little off the pace.	W	28	CRT	2x10	-	2
Philips 24PW6006	500	★★★★★	Jul 02	Baby widescreen - its picture and sound abilities make it a great buy.	W	24	CRT	10	-	2
✪ Philips 28PW9618	1200	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Top marks for sound and vision - eat your heart out plasmas.	W	28	CRT	110	D/2	4
Samsung WS-24W63V	349	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Good-looking and offers reasonable value for the money.	W	24	CRT	10	-	2
Sharp 28-JF73H	430	★★★☆☆	Jul 03	Respectable enough set, but it fails to shine among the strong competition.	W	28	CRT	2x10	-	3
Sony KV-24LS35U	600	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Good looking, but expensive, flatscreen TV - impressive picture and sound.	W	24	CRT	2x7	DV	2
Sony KD-32DX100	1750	★★★☆☆	Mar 02	Integrated digital TV receiver so you can get free-to-air channels.	W	32	CRT	10	i/DV	3

RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Marantz

PM7200 amplifier. Super test champion July 03 What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision. Black finish.

£329.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JULY 2003

Also available
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DM602.3 speakers in black or cherry finish. Stands not included.

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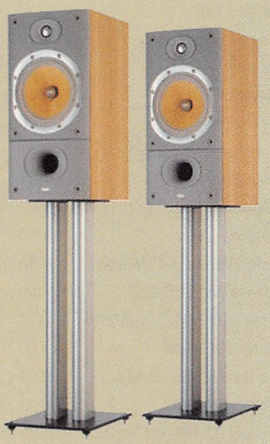

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ DECEMBER 2002

B&W Bowers&Wilkins

Pioneer

DV360. Multi-region DVD player. Latest model. Stunning slimline design. Available in black or silver. Fantastic value. Just:

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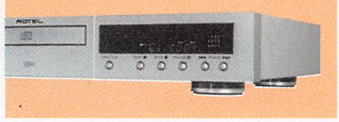
Rotel

RCD02 CD player. Unbeatable value.

£379.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUGUST 2003



Apollo

Symphony 5. Hi-fi table, fully welded in silver or gloss piano black finishes. RRP £329.00. Save £80.00

£249.95

KEF

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUNE 2001

KHT 2005. Home cinema speaker system. Black or silver finish. Comprises 5 x 100W satellites and a 150W active subwoofer. Five stars in June 01 What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision. They said 'Gobsmackingly good. Could be the best sub/sat system ever'. RRP £799.95. Save £300.00

£499.95

Superfi stock the best What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision five star award winners

★★★★★

Denon

DM31 micro CD/tuner/amplifier plus Mission-made SCM51 speakers. Five star product in June 03's edition of What Hi-Fi? Sound &Vision. RRP £299.95. Save £50.

£249.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUNE 2003

Sennheiser

HD600 Headphones. 'Open, revealing, neutral and dynamic. Costly, but worth it' said What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision. October 97 at £250.00. Save £100.00.

£149.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ OCTOBER 2000

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HD590 Save £100 **£79.95**

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0191 230 4141

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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUGUST 2002

Fantastic Denon offer

Denon AVR 1603. Home cinema receiver, half price. 'Excellent value, lots of features, weighty delivery', said What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision February 2003, at £300.00, save £150.00.

£149.95

Marantz

CD 6000 OSE, limited edition black CD player. 'This is a remarkable CD player for £300.00' said What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision in April 2002. RRP £299.95. Save £120.00.

£179.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ APRIL 2001

KEF

Q3. Floor-standing speakers. Black, dark apple or maple finishes. 'Perfect for jazz or classical music' said What Hi-Fi? Sound& Vision May 03. RRP £399.95. Save £100.00.

£299.95

Pure

DRX-701ES DAB tuner. 'If you want a quality home tuner for digital radio, you need look no further' What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision 2002 Awards issue. RRP £249.99. Save £30.00

£219.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ 2002 AWARDS

Mission

M74i. Floor-standing speakers in black finish. Five star review in What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Feb 03; they said 'superb powerhouse speakers; the low-end performance, to put it simply, is fantastic. RRP £299.95. Save £100.00.

£199.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ FEBRUARY 2003

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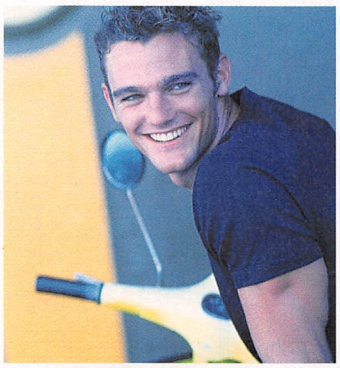
Mission

M73i floorstanding speakers. 'Lots of speaker for the money' said What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision March 03. Black or beech. RRP £229.95. Save £100.00.

£129.95

Also available
Mission 72i. Save £100.00 **£79.95**



KEF

KHT 2005.2. Home cinema package. Fabulous five star review in August 03 What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision.

£799.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUGUST 2003

Panasonic

DMRE50 DVD recorder. Built-in tuner, Videoplus timer, 'timeslip' record and play at same time. RRP £449.95. Save £150.00

£299.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ OCTOBER 2003

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Superfi

Televisions

Up to £5500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Screen size	System	Power	Features	SCART
Sony KP51DS1	3300	★★★☆☆	Feb 02	Good performance in most regards, but not quite as impressive as similarly priced rivals.	B	51	CRT	15	-	3
Sony KF-50SX200	4472	★★★☆☆	Nov 02	Solid performance for a rear-projection set but there are better options around.	B	50	LCD	2x15	-	3
Thomson 28WF401G	450	★★★☆☆	Jul 03	Promises much but delivers little - the picture performance is well below-par.	W	28	CRT	2x20	-	3
✪ Toshiba 32ZD26P	1099	★★★★★	Jun 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. It's still the best TV we've seen.	W	32	CRT	20	-	3
Toshiba 36ZD26P	1300	★★★★★	Dec 02	Top-ranking big-screen viewing solution - and it's superb value, too.	W	36	CRT	20	-	3
Toshiba 36ZP38P	1800	★★★★★	Sep 03	Immaculate picture quality and also a convenient surround-sound solution.	W	36	CRT	63	D	3

KEY | **Type of TV** W indicates 16:9 widescreen, F that it's a projector and B that it's an all-in-one back projection set. **Screen size** Measured diagonally across the screen, and given to the nearest inch. **System** For projectors, and given as CRT for a cathode ray tube, LCD for liquid crystal or DLP for digital light projector. **Power** Stereo sets only quote 'front' power ratings, while surround sets offer additional 'centre' and 'rear' ratings. **Features** P=Pro-Logic, 2=Prologic II, D=Dolby Digital, S=DTS, T=THX, X=DD EX, E=DTS ES, DV=Dolby Virtual. **Scart sockets** Audio/video inputs. The more the better.

Plasmas and LCDs

Up to £15,000

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Screen size	System	Power	Features	SCART
Bush LCD15TV	500	★★★★☆	Sep 03	An LCD TV, not just a display - above-average for a below-average price.	4:3	15	LCD	-	-	1
Fujitsu P42HHS10	5395	★★★★☆	Jun 03	Plasma screen that looks and plays the part, as long as you don't mind tinkering.	W	42	PLA	-	-	3
Hitachi 32PD3000E	3000	★★★☆☆	May 03	Reasonable TV with tuner box and stereo speakers but we'd expect far better for the price.	W	32	PLA	2x10	-	3
Hitachi 42PD3000	4000	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Good all-round performance that offers reasonable value in an exorbitant price bracket.	W	42	PLA	2x10	-	3
✪ JVC PD-42D30ES	5500	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Minimal styling and peerless picture performance.	W	42	PLA	2x10	-	3
LG MZ-42PZ14	3000	★★☆☆☆	May 03	Offers a lot of plasma for the price, but its picture is disappointing.	W	42	PLA	-	-	0
LG RE-15LA30	500	★☆☆☆☆	Feb 03	Looks brilliant and it's a great price, but the picture is awful and the sound is tinny.	4:3	15	LCD	-	-	1
NEC Plasma Sync 61MP1	14995	★★★★☆	Jun 02	One of the biggest plasma displays in the world - stunning image scale and price tag.	W	61	PLA	7	-	0
✪ Panasonic TX-15LT2	1500	★★★★★	Feb 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Stunning, if expensive, piece of kit.	W	15	LCD	2+2.5	-	1
Philips 42PF9965	5000	★★☆☆☆	Oct 03	Displays all the digital limitations that typically afflict plasma screens.	W	42	PLA	2x15	-	4
Pioneer PDP433HDE	5995	★★★★★	Jun 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Excellent picture, good features and easy to use.	W	43	PLA	12	-	3
Pioneer PDP-503HDE	8000	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Offers everything you'd want for now and tomorrow.	W	50	PLA	12	-	3
Samsung LW17N13W	999	★★☆☆☆	Feb 03	Distinctly average - the picture lacks sharpness and the sound is unimpressive.	W	17	LCD	-	-	2
Sanyo PDP32-H1EV	3000	★★☆☆☆	Apr 03	Disappointing plasma - pay more for a rival or save lots and buy a standard 32in TV.	W	32	PLA	-	-	0
Sharp LC-20E1E	1150	★★☆☆☆	Oct 03	Practical, stylish design, but it bears all the hallmarks of underperforming LCD displays.	4:3	20	LCD	2x2.5	-	1
Sharp LC-22SV2E	1600	★★☆☆☆	Oct 03	Unfortunately looks most impressive when switched off - disappointing performance.	W	22	LCD	2x2.5	-	1
Sharp LC-30HV4E	3500	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	For this money you could get a better performing plasma.	W	30	LCD	2x10	-	3
✪ Sony KE-32TS2	3400	★★★★★	Aug 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Beautifully styled plasma, completely integrated.	W	32	PLA	-	-	2
Thomson 42WB02LU	3200	★★★★☆	May 03	Best in the test - colourful, detailed picture with reasonable contrast for a plasma.	W	42	PLA	2x10	-	3
Toshiba 20VL43	1299	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Undoubtedly stylish but like other LCD sets the quality-to-cost ratio doesn't add up.	4:3	20	LCD	2x2.5	-	1
Toshiba 35WP26P	4300	★★★★★	Aug 03	Excellent plasma with a television tuner included. Good picture performance for a plasma.	W	35	PLA	2x20	-	2

KEY | **Type of TV** W indicates 16:9 widescreen, F that it's a projector and B that it's an all-in-one back projection set. **Screen size** Measured diagonally across the screen, and given to the nearest inch. **System** PLA=Plasma, LCD=Liquid Crystal Display. **Power** Stereo sets only quote 'front' power ratings, while surround sets offer additional 'centre' and 'rear' ratings. **Features** P=Pro-Logic, 2=Prologic II, D=Dolby Digital, S=DTS, T=THX, X=DD EX, E=DTS ES, DV=Dolby Virtual. **Scart sockets** Audio/video inputs. The more the better.

Projectors

Up to £9500

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Screen size	System	Power	Features	SCART
DreamVision CinexOne	3100	★★★★★	Jul 02	An outstanding and affordable DLP design, a great budget home cinema projector.	F	300	DLP	-	-	0
DreamVision CinemaTenPro	9500	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Very attractive, well equipped projector able to deliver a high-quality image.	F	300	DLP	-	-	0
Epson EMP-TW100	3617	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Easy to use, quiet-running and highly capable.	F	300	LCD	-	-	0

RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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Projectors continued

Up to £9500

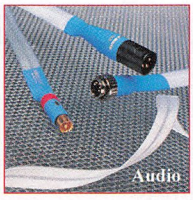
PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Type	Screen size	System	Power	Features	SCART
Hitachi PJ-TX10	1200	★★★★★	Oct 03	Decent image quality for the price - if this is all you want to spend look no further.	F	300	LCD	-	-	0
InFocus ScreenPlay 110	3295	★★☆☆☆	Jan 03	Affordable and easy to live with - but it is ultimately disappointing.	F	114	DLP	-	-	0
✪ NEC HT1000	4700	★★★★★	Sep 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Compact projector that's a home cinema stunner.	F	200	DLP	-	-	0
✪ Optoma ThemeScene H56	3495	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Well equipped, small, and it delivers top pictures.	F	246	DLP	-	-	0
Sanyo PLV-Z1	1500	★★★★★	Feb 03	High-quality, affordable projector - a great way to transform your movie-watching.	F	200	LCD	-	-	0
Sharp XV-Z91E	2400	★★★★★	Oct 03	Tempting given the price - a simple-to-use projector that's well worth an audition.	F	200	DLP	-	-	0
Sharp XV-Z10000E	9500	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Generates excellent images full of colour and life - worth an audition but it's pricey.	F	300	DLP	-	-	0
SIM2 HT300 Plus	8995	★★★★★	Jan 03	The previous version won a Best Buy in the 2002 Awards - the best just got even better.	F	300	DLP	-	-	0
Toshiba TLP-MT7	4000	★★★★☆	Dec 01	Very good projector in terms of size and convenience - fine picture for the price.	F	250	LCD	-	-	0
Yamaha LPX-500	3300	★★★★★	Jan 03	Top-quality performance from this debutante - outstanding picture and good features.	F	300	LCD	-	-	0
✪ Yamaha DPX-1000	8000	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Rich, full image from an easy-to-install package.	F	300	DLP	-	-	0

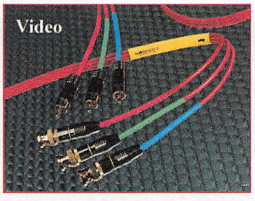
KEY | Type: F = front projector. **Screen size** Maximum image size measured diagonally across the screen, and given to the nearest inch. **System** DLP=digital light projector, LCD=Liquid Crystal Display.

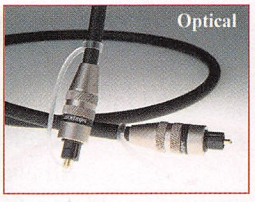
Speaker cables

Up to £7/m

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Diameter	Materials	Type	Directional
Audioquest Type 4	6	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Smooth and refined presentation - ideal to help soften aggressive systems.	0.8mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Black Rhodium T200	4.75	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Eminently suitable for rear speakers but don't use in a stereo system.	3.3x6.6	TC	MS	No
Black Rhodium T90	5	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Thin spaghetti-like cable that delivers a fast, agile and cohesive sound.	2.6mm	SC	S	No
Black Rhodium AST 75x2	5	★★★★☆	Oct 96	Biwired cable with good separation. Instruments are presented clearly; tireless sound.	7.8mm	TC	MS	No
Black Rhodium AST 200	6	★★★★★	May 98	A remarkably expressive listen: full of energy, it gives powerful and well-developed bass.	8mm	TC	MS	No
Cable Talk Talk 3.1	2.5	★★★★★	Feb 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Excellent clarity for a bargain price.	f5mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Cable Talk Talk 4.1	4.5	★★★★☆	Apr 97	Extremely capable cable with a good degree of openness and detail.	f5mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Cable Talk Excel 4	4.5	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Good solid buy, well suited to mid-price-range systems.	f5mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Cable Talk Flat 2	5	★★★★☆	Oct 99	Tonally a touch bright but still impressively punchy and alive. Works well with rock.	f2.5mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Chord Company Carnival	2.99	★★★★★	Feb 99	Upfront, detailed sound with a full bass, vibrant treble and excellent detail.	7.5mm	Cp	MS	Yes
DNM Reson MkII	6.95	★★★★★	May 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000 - a complete blend of smoothness, power and excitement.	f	Cp	S	Yes
Ecosse CS-2.2 Plus	2.6	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Designed as a first-step upgrade and certainly better than the standard stuff.	7.4mm	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Mini Flat 4	2.99	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Flexible and unobtrusive - but sound is compressed and bass lacks clarity.	f	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Reference CS-2.3	3.85	★★★★★	Oct 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Ensures bass is taut and imaging is top-notch.	8.2mm	Cp	MS	No
Ixos XHS606-S (was 6007)	2.49	★★★★☆	Oct 00	Twisted braid construction - performs well for the money but needs more midrange detail.	2x1.7mm	Cp	MS	No
Ixos XHS706-S (was 6003)	3.49	★★★★★	Feb 99	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1997. Superb wide-open-sounding wire.	2x2.6mm	Cp	MS	No
Ixos XHS-806-S(was 6006)	4.99	★★★☆☆	Apr 03	Well balanced delivery but its warm character sucks the lifeforce from tunes.	2x2.6mm	Cp	MS	No
Kimber 4PR	5	★★★★☆	May 98	Sounds controlled and muscular. (Termination charges add £50 to price)	10mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Merlin C6	5.5	★★★★★	Oct 03	Sounds superb, as you might hope with termination adding £100 to the cost.	1mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Nordost Cinemaflex 14/2	4.95	★★★★☆	Sep 02	You can do better in terms of sheer power but you should try this clear-sounding cable.	6mm	CP/SL	MS	Yes
Origin Live Soli-core super	6.6	★★★★☆	Feb 94	Stiff, bulky cable best suited to biwiring. Good instrumental separation and detailing.	15mm	Cp	S	Yes
Ortofon SPK.100	3	★★★☆☆	Dec 92	Flat, thin cable; easy to hide. Bass less powerful, detailed but insubstantial treble.	f2mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Ortofon SPK.200	5	★★★☆☆	Feb 94	Well-projected midrange and treble gives sound a spacious, airy quality.	f2mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Puresonic 7825	7	★★★★☆	May 98	Can lack drive though this may suit harsher set-ups.	2x6mm	Cp	MS	No
QED 42 strand cable	.8	★★☆☆☆	Dec 92	Smooth, detailed sound but rather lightweight bass. OK on a tight budget.	0.75mm	Cp	MS	No
QED 79 strand	1.5	★★★☆☆	Feb 94	Use in budget systems only, where bass gains weight and midband and treble liven up.	2.75mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Original	2.75	★★★★★	Apr 96	Best Buy in the Awards 1995. Bass is deep, control beyond question - was called Qudos.	2x2.5mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Micro Bi-wire	3.5	★★★★☆	Awd 00	Competitively priced, ideal for discreet installations. Delivers a fine amount of detail.	4x1.25mm	Cp	MS	No
✪ QED Silver Anniversary	5.5	★★★★★	May 98	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Fabulous, insightful and involving.	2x2.5mm	Sc	MS	No







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RATINGS
✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Speaker cables continued

Up to £7/m

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Diameter	Materials	Type	Directional
QED Original Mk II Bi-Wire	5.5	★★★★★	Oct 00	Truly excellent levels of detail and spaciousness make this cable a winner.	4x2.5mm	Cp	MS	No
Supra Classic 4.0T	3.99	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Solid performer at a sensible price. Detail is good rather than great.	4mm	Cp/O	MS	Yes
Supra Rondo 4x2.5	4.99	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Designed for biwiring applications and long speaker runs.	4x2.5	Cp/O	MS	Yes
Taperwire 418	7	★★★★★	May 98	Ultra-flat biwire cable that offers highly accurate musical insights.	f	Cp	S	No
Tech + Link SPC42/3	1.75	★★★★☆	May 98	Good bass and imaging make this cable a fine starter cable for modest systems.	f	Cp	MS	No
Tech + Link OFC79	1.8	★★★☆☆	Apr 96	A good-value cable upgrade but don't expect barn-storming performance.	2x4mm	Cp	MS	Yes
True Colours Ind SideWin (Biwire)	5.99	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Conspicuous biwire cable that matches its colourful look. Avoid with aggressive kit.	2.5x25	Cp	MS	Yes
van den Hul The Clearwater	6	★★★★☆	Dec 92	Expensive looks, but its sharply etched sound can make music seem uninvolving.	f4.0mm	Cp	MS	Yes
van den Hul The Skytrack	7	★★★☆☆	May 98	Useful if your system suffers from sibilance but overall something of a disappointment.	f3.4mm	Cp	MS	No

£7.01/m and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Diameter	Materials	Type	Directional
Atlas Ascent	20	★★★★★	Oct 03	Highly tuneful and refined, every last musical note being revealed.	8	Cp	MS	No
Audio Note AN-Ba (stereo metre)	33	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Smooth presentation with plenty of weight and scale but you can buy better.	8mm	Cp	MS	No
Audioquest Slate (3m pair)	220	★★★★★	Apr 02	Will lay bare foibles in characterful components; will dazzle with top-quality kit.	12mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Black Rhodium AST400x2	15	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Serves up music with a lively energy and loads of slam - top end can be unsubtle.	12mm	Cp	MS	No
Black Rhodium S300	18	★★★★★	Oct 97	Sounds superb with quality albums but is highly revealing of poor recordings.	9.1mm	SC	MS	No
Black Rhodium S130x2	20	★★★☆☆	Aug 99	Fairly good-sounding and detailed cable, but we'd expect a bit more flair for the price.	8.8mm	SC	MS	No
Black Rhodium S300x2	40	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Neither detail levels or finesse excel - we'd expect more for the money.	12.5mm	SC	MS	No
Chord Company Rumour 4 Core	19.9	★★★★★	Jul 01	Not only looks good, it's a dynamic performer, too.	9mm	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Ecosse Reference ES-2.3	11.99	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Dynamics are vivid and help this cable grab the attention like few others.	9.5mm	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse ES2.3/CS2.15 biwire	17	★★★★★	Jul 01	A combination of two cables that sound stunning.	10x20mm	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Reference MS-2.3	23	★★★★★	Oct 99	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Communicates a room-filling sound that few cables manage.	8.2mm	Cp	MS	No
Kimber 4VS	9	★★★★☆	Jul 98	Great all-round cable which works a treat.Termination charges add £50 to price.	7mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Kimber KS-3035 (3m termin.)	3735	★★★★★	Apr 99	Crystalline clarity, superb bass extension and control, the Kimbers do all this and more.	26mm	Sl/Cp	MS	Yes
Naim NACA5	7.5	★★★★☆	Feb 94	Powerful, controlled bass and detailed, convincing mid and treble. Superb dynamics.	f	Cp	MS	Yes
Nordost Cinemaflex 14/4	9.95	★★★★★	Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Detail retrieval is excellent.	8mm	CP/SL	MS	Yes
Nordost Flatline Gold MkII	10.5	★★★★★	May 98	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1998. Look no further for clarity and openness.	f	Cp	MS	Yes
Nordost 4 - Flat	10.9	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Excellent detail and dynamics - its presentation contains little unwanted character.	f	CP	S	Yes
Nordost Superflat MkII Bi-Wire	21	★★★★☆	Jul 01	Fine cable in many ways - ideal if your system suffers from overbearing bass.	f0.6mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Nordost Solar Wind	31	★★★★★	Jan 99	Fine separation and airy, open sound. A great cable, but pricey.	f	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Nordost Blue Heaven Rev II	65	★★★★☆	Oct 99	Fantastic cable but the price goes up to a jaw-dropping price when terminated.	f	CP/SL	MS	Yes
Precious Metals LS2	15	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Very musical and rhythmic, they bring an openness to music.	3.6	Sl	MS	No
QED Profile 4x4	10	★★★★★	Apr 97	Incredibly good value cable, revealing clarity and depth of image that is stunning.	f2.2mm	Cp	MS	No
QED X-Tube XT300	10	★★★★★	Sep 02	Fast, exciting yet well-balanced cable - can make the most of what your system offers.	5.5mm	Cp	MS	No
QED Silver Anniversary Biwire	10	★★★★★	Jul 01	Delivers open, fast and transparent sound - at the price, it's a terrific buy.	4x2.5mm	Cp	MS	No
QED X-Tube XT350	15	★★★★★	Oct 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Detail resolution is terrific.	5.9mm	H	MS	No
QED Profile Silver 12	15	★★★★☆	Oct 97	Demonstrates superlative resolution with an airy treble - tad tame for rockers.	f1.6mm	Sc	MS	No
QED X-Tube XT400	20	★★★★★	Apr 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Wonderfully deep soundstage and superb crisp presentation.	6.0mm	Sl/Cp	MS	No
QED Genesis	30	★★★★★	Aug 99	Costly cable option, but the Genesis performs so well it's certainly worth the money.	16.6mm	Sl/Cp	MS	No
QED Genesis Silver Spiral Biwire	60	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Everything simply sounds more real - get the system right and it can be breathtaking.	20	Sl/Cp	MS	No
Straightwire Chorus	8	★★★☆☆	Apr 02	Sounds exciting but we're not convinced it will satisfy over extended listening.	12mm	Cp	MS	Yes
Tara Labs Prism Nexa	9.95	★★★★★	Aug 99	Does a great job with all types of music but don't use with bright-sounding electronics.	7.8mm	Cp	MS	Yes
True Colours Industries Python	9.99	★★★☆☆	Oct 00	Speedy and dynamic, but ultimately disappoints with a muddled bass.	9.5mm	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
True Colours Industries Anaconda	12	★★☆☆☆	Oct 03	Cool design but the overall detail and dynamic contrast isn't up to the class leaders.	2x2.4	Sl/Cp	MS	Yes
van den Hul The Snowtrack Biwire	8	★★★☆☆	Jul 01	Excellent grasp of detail and dynamics - can be soft in the treble.	f3.4mm	Cp	MS	Yes

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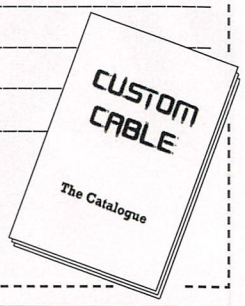

RATINGS
Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Speaker cables continued

£7.01/m and over

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Diameter	Materials	Type	Directional
van den Hul Royal Jade Hybrid	9	★★★☆☆	May 00	Not a bad cable and would tame a brash set-up but it doesn't have all-round talents.	16.5mm	Cp	MS	No
van den Hul CS-122	10	★★★★★	Oct 98	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Detail, solidity and punch.	f6.0mm	Cp	MS	No
van den Hul D352 Hybrid	18	★★★★☆	Oct 99	Plenty of punch and attack without harshness. Just lacks that special sparkle.	21mm	Cp	MS	Yes

KEY | **Diameter** This figure is given in millimetres. Where a cable is of a 'flat' construction, rather than circular in cross-section, we indicate its depth. So '10' means the cable is 1cm in diameter, while 'f4' means a 4mm deep flat cable. **Materials** Almost all cables have cores made of metal, and copper of varying degrees of purity is the most common material employed. We indicate this as:Cp = copper, Sl = silver, CF = carbon fibre, O = other. **Type** S = solid core, MS = multistranded. **Directional** Some manufacturers indicate a direction on cables. Arrows indicate the output to input orientation.

Audio interconnects

Up to £350

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Length	Termination	Materials	Type	Directional
AR Accessories Performance	12	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Cheap, but we'd recommend spending a bit more for considerably better results.	1.0	P	Cp	MS	No
AR Accessories Pro Series HT152	25	★★★★★	Oct 02	Intended for use with an active sub - decent improvement in low-frequency speed.	3.6	P	Cp	MS	Yes
AR Accessories MS 230	49.99	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Conveys a weighty sound, but it doesn't offer enough insight into recordings.	0.9m	P	Sl/Cp	MS	No
✪ Atlas Equator	39.99	★★★★★	Aug 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Fabulous insight whatever the music.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Atlas Explorer	89.99	★★★★★	Jul 02	Excellent debut from a new brand - of particular note is the bass performance.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Atlas Voyager	110	★★★★★	Apr 03	Detail resolution is great for the money and bass is taut and powerful. Excellent cable.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Atlas Voyager All Cu	170	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Excellent performance - its open nature and rhythmic delivery ensures an enjoyable listen.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Audio Note AN-C (unterminated)	35	★★★☆☆	Aug 01	Basic presentation is very musical, but tonal flaws mean they aren't up to rivals.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Audioquest Copperhead	50	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Produces a seamless presentation that has plenty of punch and speed.	0.75	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Audioquest Diamondback	85	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Fine interconnect, communicating mid and treble frequencies with musicality.	1.0m	P	Cp	S	Yes
Black Rhodium The First Base	25	★★★★☆	Aug 01	Fine cable for the money - audition if your budget is tight (was called SonicLink).	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Black Rhodium Symphony	95	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Impressive - tonal balance is neutral and the bass is solid with good levels of detail.	1.0m	P/X	O	MS	No
Cable Talk Monitor 3	49.95	★★★★★	Oct 99	Cracking cables that are fast and funky, allowing bags of attack and drive.	1.0m	P/D/B	Cp	MS	Yes
Cable Talk Monitor 3BP	60	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Eye-catching cable with bold and engaging presentation. Stuggles against the best.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Cable Talk Broadcast 2	99.95	★★★★★	Jan 97	Soundstaging and openness - friends will swear you've changed more than the cable.	1.0m	P/B/X/D	Cp	MS	Yes
Cable Talk Reference 3	149.95	★★★☆☆	Jan 02	Certainly a good interconnect, but its performance doesn't match the price tag.	1.0m	P/B/X/D	Cp	MS	Yes
Cambridge Audio Atlantic	10	★★★☆☆	Mar 96	Pocket money upgrade, worth considering if your system errs towards the over-bright.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Cambridge Audio Pacific	30	★★★★★	Mar 96	Worth every penny. Its detail and open expression are immediately attention-grabbing.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Cambridge Audio Silver Spirit 40	70	★★★★☆	Oct 98	Talented cable that in many ways is superb at the price. Take care with system matching.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Chord Company Calypso	30	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Fine upper bass punch and fluid midrange make this a solid buy.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Chord Company Chrysalis	39.99	★★★☆☆	Feb 99	Highly Recommended in the 1997 Awards. Especially suitable if you're after bigger bass.	1.0m	P/D	Cp	MS	Yes
Chord Company Cobra II	54.99	★★★★☆	Oct 97	Decent bass delivery and a detailed treble. Good separation between instruments.	1.0m	P/D	Cp	MS	Yes
Chord Company Solid	120	★★★★☆	Mar 96	Most impressive; lets the information flow with finely-honed detail.	1.0m	P/D	Cp/Sl	S	No
Chord Company Chorus	200	★★★★★	May 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Terrifically deep bass, midrange taut and top-end spacious.	1.0m	P	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Cyrus Interconnect	90	★★★★★	Apr 03	Great buy - dynamics are crisp and the transparency is breathtaking considering the price.	0.5m	P	Cp	S	Yes
DNM Reson	40	★★★★★	Oct 98	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Combines smoothness with fine transparency.	1.0m	P	Cp	S	Yes
DNM Reson Bullet Plug	80	★★★★★	Oct 02	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. Most open-sounding we've heard under £100.	1.0	Bu	Cp	S	Yes
Ecosse The Composer MkII	30	★★★★☆	Jul 02	This second-generation Composer can't match the first - it's not quite an all-rounder.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse The Composer	30	★★★★★	Aug 01	A stellar interconnect - the signal is so well preserved it's hard to believe the price	0.8m	P	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Reference Conductor MkII	55	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Solid buy with forceful presentation and good level of resolution. Low end lacks agility.	0.8m	P/B	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Conductor (was Ref CA-1)	59	★★★★★	Sep 00	Product of the Year Winner 2000. Allows all genres of music to sound their best.	0.8m	P/B	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse The Baton RCA	80	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Fine punch and authority - this is good but not great interconnect.	0.8m	P/X	Cp	MS	Yes
Ecosse Maestro SE	155	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Updated old favourite - doesn't offer the superiority now over the new competition.	0.8m	P/B	Cp	MS	No
Ecosse Maestro (was Ref MA2)	159	★★★★★	Oct 99	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Sonically they amaze - high-end system owners take note.	0.8m	P/B	Cp	MS	No
Insert Audio Focus 1.2 (pair)	21	★★★★☆	Oct 98	A step up from 'freebie' cables - dynamic and fast, it is ideal for hard-hitting music.	1.0m	P/B/X	Cp	MS	Yes
Insert Audio IC100 Mk II (pair)	29.95	★★★★☆	Jan 99	Good, affordable interconnect that helps produce an exciting, raw and enjoyable sound.	1.0m	P/B/X	Cp	MS	Yes
Insert Audio Status 3.4 (pair)	159.95	★★★☆☆	Sep 00	Physically lacks the class one would expect at this price and proves disappointing in use.	1.0m	P/B/X	Sl	MS	Yes
Ixos XHA203 (was 104 Custom)	19.99	★★★★★	Feb 93	On budget CD players it gives a richer, more transparent and better focused sound.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos XHA406 (Gamma 1114)	34.99	★★★☆☆	Aug 02	Fluid-sounding with a refined delivery. Would be useful placed in an overly bright system.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos XHA606 (Gamma 1112)	59.99	★★★☆☆	Aug 02	Designed to reduce interference, but the resulting sound is lazy and undynamic.	1.0m	P	Sl/Cp	MS	Yes
Ixos XHA806	99.99	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Uses impressive gamma-weave noise rejection technology but they are rather disappointing	1.0m	P	Sc	MS	Yes
Kimber Tonik	51	★★★★☆	Apr 03	Cohesive and informative presentation - will give fine results in most budget systems.	1.0	P/X	Cp	MS	Yes
Kimber PBJ (pair)	76	★★★★★	Oct 01	If you want wide ranging dynamics and rock-solid bass punch this is the cable for you.	1.0m	P/X	Cp	MS	Yes
LAT International IC-50-D	42	★★★★★	Mar 96	Produces a spacious sound with an abundance of detail for the money.	1.0m	P/X	Cp	MS	No
LAT International IC-100 MkII	116	★★★★☆	Mar 98	Can deliver to your amp the sort of bass subwoofers love - fast, extended and exciting.	1.0m	P	Cp/Sl	S	Yes
LAT International IC-200 MkII	175	★★★☆☆	Oct 97	Fine levels of detail, resolution and bass but there's a fierce streak in its treble.	1.0m	P	Cp/Sl	S	Yes
✪ Merlin Chopin	85	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Superb - punchy, clean and rhythm-driven presentation.	1.0	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Nordost Black Knight	68	★★★★★	Apr 97	Clean sounding with enhanced clarity, extended bandwidth and dynamic resolution.	1.0m	P/D/X	Cp	S	Yes
Nordost Solar Wind	95	★★★★★	Mar 98	Technically interesting and fine-sounding - this is one exciting cable.	1.0 m	P/D/X	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Nordost Blue Heaven	165	★★★★☆	Oct 99	Exciting and full of attack and drive but up-front sound won't suit everyone.	1.0m	P/D/X	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Nordost Cinemaflex Bassl(mono)	290	★★★★☆	Oct 02	If you have a very, very good subwoofer in your set-up buy this great sounding cable.	5.0	P/X	Cp/SL	MS	Yes
Nordost Red Dawn	330	★★★★☆	May 98	At this price it's one for high-end set-ups, but an exhilarating listen.	1.0m	P/D/X	Cp/Sl	MS	Yes
Precious Metals CopperTech Alpha	25	★★★★★	Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Great value - performance that usually costs lots more.	1.0m	P	Al	S	No
Precious Metals Silver Signal 52	100	★★★★★	Oct 97	Highly listenable, the focus on instruments within the wide open soundstage is fabulous.	1.0m	P/B/D	Sl/Cp	MS	No
Precious Metals Silver Signal 100	140	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Pleasant and airy delivery - may help round off any harsh edges your system may have.	1.0m	P/B/D	Sl/Al	MS	No

RATINGS
- ✪ Award winner
- ★★★★★ Supertest winner
- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★☆ Very good
- ★★★☆☆ Average
- ★★☆☆☆ Below par
- ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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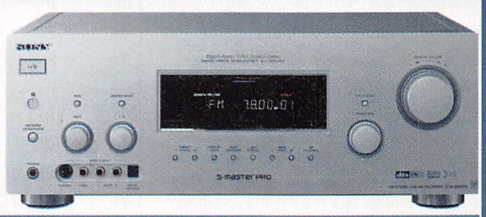

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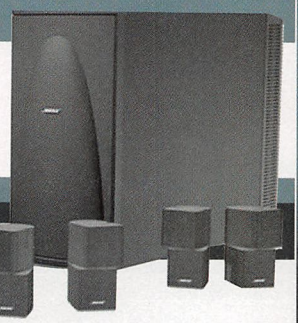

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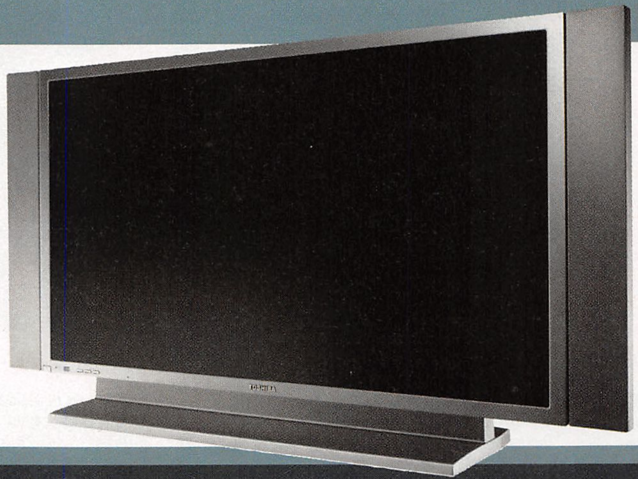

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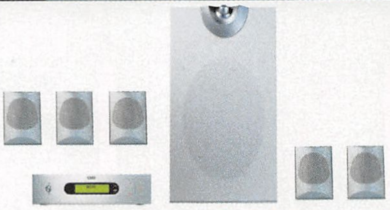

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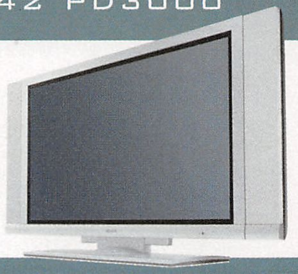

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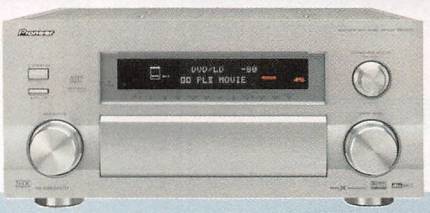

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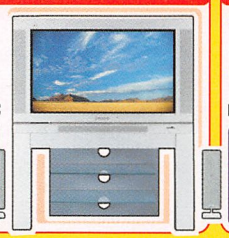

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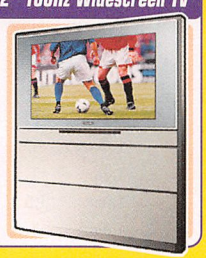

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Denon PMA1055R ..... Phone
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Sony TAFB940RS ..... Phone
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Sony TAFE570R ..... Phone
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Pioneer PDM603 ..... Phone
Pioneer PDRW839 ..... Phone
Sony CDLSA1 ..... Phone
Sony CDPCE375 ..... Phone
Sony CDPCX355 ..... Phone
Sony CDPCX455 ..... Phone
Sony CDPXE270 ..... Phone
Sony CDPXE370 ..... Phone
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Sony MDSNT1 ..... Phone
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Sony SSLA500L ..... Phone
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Sony SSLAC505EDL ..... Phone
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Teac LS350U ..... Phone
Wharfedale D8CB ..... Phone
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Acoustic Energy EVO-ONE ..... Phone
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JBL LX2003BEE ..... Phone
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Kef CODA70M ..... Phone
Kef CODA90M ..... Phone
Kef CRESTA10DA ..... Phone
Kef CRESTA10M ..... Phone
Kef CRESTA20CDA ..... Phone
Kef CRESTA20CM ..... Phone
Kef CRESTA30DA ..... Phone
Kef CRESTA30M ..... Phone
Kef PSW1000B ..... Phone
Sony SRSA202 ..... Phone
Sony SRSA27 ..... Phone
Sony SRSA57 ..... Phone
Sony SRSP10QB ..... Phone
Sony SRSP7 ..... Phone
Sony SRST70 ..... Phone
Sony SRSZ1 ..... Phone
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Tannoy R1 ..... Phone
Teac LS600 ..... Phone
Wharfedale D81B ..... Phone
Wharfedale D83B ..... Phone
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Denon DRW585 ..... Phone
Kenwood KXFW4030 ..... Phone
Marantz SD4050 ..... Phone
Pioneer CTL11 ..... Phone
Pioneer CTS250 ..... Phone
Pioneer CTW606DR ..... Phone
Pioneer CTW806DR ..... Phone
Sony DTCZE700 ..... Phone
Sony TCKA6ES ..... Phone
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Audio interconnects continued

Up to £350

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Length	Termination	Materials	Type	Directional
Precious Metals Silver Signal 200	240	★★★☆☆	Jun 96	Smooth and easy-going, yet supremely detailed and packed with subtlety.	1.0m	P/B/D	Al	MS	No
Profigold PGA4201	15	★★★★☆	Aug 99	A safe bet in entry-level set ups but avoid partnering with already-bright kit.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Profigold PGA-3000	39.99	★★★☆☆	Apr 02	Solidly-made cable and will flatter systems that tend towards thinness or brightness.	0.75	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Puresonic 5050A	17	★★★★★	Mar 96	Brings music to life with bubbly vitality. The price makes this pure dead brilliant!	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Puresonic 6010A	22	★★★★☆	Jul 95	Plenty of life and clarity, giving rock music a fast, exciting sound.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Puresonic 3010A	25	★★★☆☆	Feb 99	Produces an exact sound; partnered with care, its distinctive character might be for you.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Puresonic 8010A	70	★★★★☆	Mar 96	Displays a sweetness of tone which can add pleasing warmth to simple, acoustic music.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
Puresonic 9010A	75	★★★☆☆	Mar 96	Soundstage is broad and deep, but for the money you'd expect more dynamics.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	No
QED Qunex One	20	★★★★★	Feb 99	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Staggeringly good value (was called Qnect 1).	1.0m	P	Sl/Cp	MS	No
QED Qunex Two	30	★★★★★	Mar 98	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1998. Weighty, peppy and involving (was Qnect).	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
QED Qunex 4 Silver	60	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Classy looking cable that will handle whatever you throw at it with ease.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
QED Qunex Silver Spiral	75	★★★★★	Oct 98	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1998. Great value for money (was called Qnect)	0.5m	P	Sl/Cp	MS	Yes
Roksan HDC-02A	85	★★★★★	Sep 00	Truly excellent performer, boasting a wide range of sonic talents, at a fair price.	1.0m	P	Cp	MS	Yes
Supra EFF-ISL (pair)	89.99	★★★☆☆	Aug 99	A costly yet unexciting source-to-amp connection.	0.75m	P	CS	MS	Yes
True Colours Industries Tiger	24.99	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Looks cheap but, surprisingly, sound quality is polished for the money.	1.0	P	Sl/Cp	MS	No
True Colours Industries Cobra	149.99	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Good for the money - detail levels are good and low frequencies are allowed full weight.	1.0m	P, X	Sl/Cp	MS	Yes
van den Hul The Bay C5	39	★★★★★	Apr 02	Very good all-round cable, and excellent value.	0.8	P	C	MS	No
van den Hul The Source	59	★★★★★	May 00	Wonderfully-balanced wire for the money - we recommend it without hesitation.	0.8m	P	Hy	MS	Yes
van den Hul D102 III HB	79	★★★★★	May 98	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Sounds smooth, natural and detailed.	0.8m	P/X	Hy	MS	Yes
van den Hul The Thunderline	109	★★★★☆	Jan 97	Need warmth and weight? This is a copper/carbon/silver cable with powerful bass delivery.	0.8m	P/X	Hy	MS	Yes
van den Hul The Second	195	★★★☆☆	Oct 96	A well-made cable, enjoyable but not remarkable at the price.	1.0m	P/X	CF	MS	No
van den Hul The First Ultimate	245	★★★★★	Sep 00	Stunning - if your system's good enough we can't recommend these too highly.	1.0m	P	CF	MS	No

KEY | **Length** The length of the test sample. **Termination** Phonos are the usual electrical termination, and Toslink for optical cables. A=AES/EBU, T=Toslink, M=Optical Mini Jack, P=Phono, B=BNC. **Material** What are the conductors made from? Cp = copper, Sl = silver, G = glass, P = plastic, O = other. **Type** E = Electrical, O = optical.

Digital interconnects

Up to £350

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Length	Termination	Materials	Type	Directional
Atlas Compass	49.99	★★★★★	Aug 02	Excellent dynamics, fine timing and rock-solid attack.	1.0m	P	Cp	E	No
Audioquest Optilink 4	320	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Pricey way of transporting digital data, but it's one of the best we know.	1.0m	T	G	O	Yes
Black Rhodium Rhythm	25	★★★★★	Sep 02	Tight and fast-sounding with crisp clarity - affordable with a great sound.	1.0m	P	SC	E	No
Black Rhodium First-Base Crystal	90	★★★☆☆	Sep 02	Capable of a sound with punch and drive but it is expensive.	1.0m	T	G	O	No
Chord Company Optichord	40	★★★★★	Mar 99	Delivers plenty of detail enhancing separation.	1.0m	T	P	O	No
Ecosse Reference Producer	19.99	★★★★★	Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. You won't get better for the money.	1.0m	P	Cp	E	No
Nordost Moonglo II	170	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Good but expensive. Only consider if you have a very high-end system.	1.0m	P/X/B	Cp/Sl	E	Yes
Nordost Moonglow Sl Shadow	350	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Produces a fabulous sound, but it's expensive.	1.0m	P/X/B	Cp/Sl	E	Yes
✪ Profigold PGD481	19.99	★★★★★	Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Dynamics are particularly impressive for the price.	1.0m	P	Cp	E	No
Profigold PGD4000	39.99	★★★★☆	Aug 02	Weighty sounding cable and well specified.	0.75	P	Cp	E	No
QED QUNEX OT(was called Qnect)	30	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Good value - the presentation is smooth without being boring.	1.0m	T	G	O	No
✪ Supra X-ZAC	59.99	★★★★★	Sep 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Great if you're limited to optical connections.	1.0m	T	P	O	No
True Colours Industries Adder	59.99	★★★★☆	Sep 00	Refined performer - good but not a class leader.	1.0m	P,B	Cp	E	Yes
van den Hul Optocoupler	50	★★★★★	Sep 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. One of the best optical links we've heard.	1.0m	T	Cp	O	No
van den Hul Digital First	140	★★★★☆	Mar 99	Obvious selection for those with high-end systems.	1.0m	P	CF	E	Yes

KEY | **Length** The length of the test sample. **Termination** Phonos are the usual electrical termination, and Toslink for optical cables. A=AES/EBU, T=Toslink, M=Optical Mini Jack, P=Phono, B=BNC. **Material** What are the conductors made from? Cp = copper, Sl = silver, G = glass, P = plastic, O = other. Type E = Electrical, O = optical

RATINGS
✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Video cables

Up to £210/m

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Length	Materials	Type	Directional
Audioquest G-Scart	50	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Picture and sound performance is great for the price.	1.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	Yes
Audioquest CinemaQuest S-1 S-Vid	70	★★★★☆	Aug 00	Excellent images with strong contrasts.	1.00	Cp	Sv-Sv	No
Audioquest Scart Type T4	75	★★★★★	Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Stylish green livery, detailed and full sound.	1.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	Yes
Audioquest CinemaQuest YIQ-2	175	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Nothing to criticise, outstanding picture quality with excellent three-dimensionality.	1.00	Sl/Cp	C	Yes
Chord Company Silver S-Video	60	★★★★☆	May 02	One of the best S-Video cables around, but ensure the rest of your kit is up to it.	1.00	Sl/Cp	Sv-Sc	Yes
Chord Company Component	99	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Image quality is excellent: details are handled well and colours are naturally relayed.	1.00	C	C	Yes
Chord Company Scart	99	★★★★★	Jan 02	Superb Scart for composite video and audio - the RGB version should be even better.	1.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Chord Company Scart (RGB)	125	★★★★★	Apr 02	Pricey and only justifiable in a high-quality system, but worth the money all the same.	1.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Ecosse Prisma	60	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Flexible and easy to handle, colours and overall contrast are very good.	1.00	Cp	C	No
Hama 43535	6.99	★★★★★	Mar 99	Offers better bass presence than freebies and images have extra sharpness.	2.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Ixos XHT601-150	39.99	★★★★★	Oct 02	Good value - performance is spot on at the price.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
✪ Ixos XHT611	40	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Flat cable and sockets - excellent picture and sound.	0.75	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Ixos XHV704-300 (1713-300)	49.95	★★★★☆	Oct 02	If you need a three-metre run this well-made cable is an affordable solution.	3.00	Cp	C	No
Ixos XHT601-300 (130AV)	49.99	★★★★★	Mar 99	An excellent buy delivering great bass energy.	3.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Kimber Scart	102	★★★★★	Oct 03	Premium-quality cable at a premium price, but it's a stunning performer.	0.75	Cp	Sc-Sc	Yes
Lektropacks HCSL14	17.6	★★★★★	Mar 99	Great value - sounds good with bags of muscularity.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Nordost Optix Video Super-S	170	★★★★☆	Aug 00	Expensive but fabulous with superb edge definition.	1.00	Cp/Sl	Sv-Sv	Yes
Nordost Optix Component Video	210	★★★★★	Apr 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. If you've got the right sort of kit it delivers the goods.	1.00	Cp/Sl	C	Yes
Philex 26481H	15	★★★★★	Oct 03	Cheap, solidly made and a good performer at the price.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Philex Thor Scart	30	★★★★★	Apr 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Build and performance that belies its budget pricetag.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Precious Metals SLTech S-VHS	70	★★★★★	Jan 02	Very impressive piece of kit - a sound investment for people denied RGB connectivity.	1.00	Sl	Sv-Sv	No
Precious Metals RGB/Component	90	★★★★★	May 02	Worth tracking down - a respectable performer in every regard, and easy to install.	1.00	SA	C	No
Precious Metals SV200	390	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Delivers a very good picture indeed, but it's not much better than some cheaper cables.	1.00	SA	C	No
Profigold PGV 6602 S-Video	15	★★★★★	Aug 00	Decent performance - at this price it's a steal.	1.00	Cp	Sv-Sv	No
Profigold PGV782	29.99	★★★★☆	Apr 02	Sensible upgrade - impressive with fast moving action films and colours shine through.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Profigold PGV632	30	★★★★★	May 02	Effective performance at a modest price - lets you adapt your TVs scart sockets to suit.	1.50	Cp	Sv-Sc	No
Profigold PGV332	35	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Cheap, and a step up from a freebie cable, but not as good as some around.	1.50	Cp	MS	No
Profigold PGV7000	39.99	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Solidly constructed and capable, if not quite a front-runner.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Profigold PGV7393	40	★★★☆☆	Sep 01	Uninspiring but still a major step up from the freebie Scart slung in with your DVD.	3.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
QED Squart 4110 (RGB)	50	★★★★★	Sep 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Video-only, the best picture quality of all those tested.	1.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	Yes
QED QUNEX S-VHS	60	★★★★☆	May 02	Effective, delivering a fine performance. Not as vivid in brightness terms as some rivals.	1.00	Sl/Cp	Sv-Sv	No
QED Qunex SR-CV1 Component	110	★★★★☆	Oct 02	Picture performance is brilliant although the price is a little steep.	1.00	Sl/Cp	C	No
Straightwire Scart	40	★★★★★	Aug 00	Good sound performance and excellent picture.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
Straightwire Silver S	70	★★★★☆	Mar 99	Excellent picture quality - contrast lets it down.	1.00	Cp	Sv	No
Supra AV3 Component	65	★★★★★	Oct 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Performance is terrific.	1.00	P	C	No
Supra AV6 (RGB)	79.99	★★★★★	Apr 02	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Movies benefit from an impressive depth of field.	1.00	Cp/Sn	Sc-Sc	Yes
Thomson KHC019	30	★★★☆☆	Oct 03	Great value, although the performance isn't as impressive as the best in this test.	5.00	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
✪ Thor RGB	35.5	★★★★★	Oct 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Picture and build quality that belies its price tag.	1.00m	Cp	C	Yes
True Colours Ind Taipan S-Vid	54.99	★★★★★	Aug 00	Sensibly priced, very capable cable.	1.00	Cp	Sv-Sv	No
True Colours Ind Taipan Scart	89.99	★★★★☆	Aug 00	Pricey but a very fine cable indeed.	1.00	Sl/Cp	Sc-Sc	No
True Colours Ind TV8810-5	25	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Beautifully made and gives a good level of performance for the price.	0.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No
True Colours Ind TV1731	28	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Good step up from basic freebie cables.	1.50	Cp	C	No
Vivanco ProWire S-Video	25	★★★★☆	Mar 99	Good performance with well-detailed images.	5.00	Cp	Sv	No
Vivanco Prowire Digital	40	★★★★☆	Mar 99	Reveals plenty of punch and detail - fine pictures.	1.50	Cp	Sc-Sc	No

KEY | **Length** The length of the test sample. **Material** of the conductor: Cp = copper, Sl = silver, CF = carbon fibre, SA = Silver Alloy, O = other. **Type** Sv = s-video, Sc = scart, P = phono. cable to hook, C = Component. In output to input order – 'Sv-Sc' would be a a DVD player's S-video output to a TV's Scart input.

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RATINGS
✪ Award winner
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Speaker stands

Up to £400

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Height	Materials	Colour	Fillable
Alphason AG50-c	99	★★★☆☆	Aug 03	Chrome exterior is easy on the eye but sadly it's easy to find fault in the performance.	50	Metal	2	Yes
Apollo A1	40	★★★★☆	Feb 99	Effective, if a little crude, being reasonably weighty and very rigid.	40-90	Metal	4	Yes
Apollo A2/5	55	★★★☆☆	Aug 98	Simple and affordable, they do a decent enough job in an entry-level system.	50	Metal	4	Yes
Apollo Olympus	80	★★★★★	Dec 96	Good looking; rock steady platform lets speakers enjoy sharper focus and tighter bass.	16-24	Metal	4	Yes
Apollo AZ range	95	★★★★☆	Aug 96	Make music strong, vibrant. Bass weight and timing excellent. Best in larger rooms.	38-61	Metal	4	Yes
Atacama Nexus 6	60	★★★★★	Dec 00	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. For build, price and sonic balance these are a steal.	60	Metal	3	Yes
Atacama SE6	90	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Well-designed and looks smart - doesn't boost sonic performance quite as well as the best.	60	Metal	3	Yes
Atacama R724	250	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Fine choice for top-notch speakers - they maximise punch and bass response, big time.	60	Metal	3	Yes
IF Design Tenchi Classic	166	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Beautifully built these stands are all about precision. Worthy of serious consideration.	65	Wd	5	No
Kudos S50	115	★★★★★	Jan 02	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1998. Look good and perform well.	46/61	Metal	2	Yes
Kudos S100	379	★★★★★	Jan 02	Excellent, offering fine imaging, strong focus and outstanding bass.	46/61	Mt/Con	Bk	Yes
Mission Stance	100	★★★★☆	Aug 03	Basic yet competent stand, although the resulting sound can lack authority and presence.	58	Metal	2	Yes
Partington Dreadnought	120	★★★★★	Aug 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. So special we'd happily live with their industrial looks.	60	Metal	Bk	Yes
✪ Partington Super Dreadnought	140	★★★★★	Aug 03	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Can give your system a dramatic boost.	60	Metal	Bk	Yes
Sound Organisation Z522	99	★★★☆☆	Aug 03	Simple and affordable speaker stand, but its sonic ability unfortunately doesn't impress.	57	Metal	2	Yes
Soundstyle ST122	120	★★★☆☆	Aug 03	Aesthetically pleasing but the resulting sound lacks dynamics and is lean in the bass.	57	Metal	2	Yes
Stands Unique Reflection (Car Fib)	379	★★★★☆	Jan 02	Elegant, slim-pillar designs - offer open treble and plenty of agility.	61	CWG	5	No

KEY | **Height** The height in cms of the review samples, or usually the maximum where a stand is available in a range of sizes. Choose one that gets your speakers' treble drivers up to ear level for the best sound. **Material** Metal is usual, but can need damping to avoid ringing in the structure (see our 'Fillable' column). M=metal, W=wood/MDF, O=other. **Colour** The number of colours available or Bk=Black, BA=Black Ash, Ch=Cherry, Gy=Grey, Gp=Graphite, Mh=Mahogany, Wt= White or Va= Various.N = natural. **Fillable** Sand or lead shot can be used to damp vibrations.

Equipment racks

Up to £915

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Height	Size	No of shelves	Shelf material	Colour
Alphason AD5/ 47CPB	270	★★★☆☆	Sep 03	Aesthetically pleasing but performance-wise it won't suit pricier hi-fi systems.	72	61/52	5	G	Chr
✪ Atacama Equinox	280	★★★★★	Oct 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. A class act, and excellent value for money.	90	50/50	4	G	2
Atacama Equinox AV	400	★★★★★	Sep 02	Something of a looker - solid enough to support weighty AV amps and a large TV.	61	106/55	3	G	2
Audiophilebase Base	912	★★★★★	Jul 98	Can find an extra level of detail and subtlety. (Tested at £615).	68	53/50	4	M	3
Audiophilebase StarBase	915	★★★★★	Dec 02	It isn't cheap, but its performance and versatile nature make it a great buy.	65	59/52	3	M	3
Clearlight Audio Aspekt	550	★★★★★	Apr 02	One of the best equipment supports around, if your system justifies the outlay.	75	48/40	4	R	3
Clearlight Audio Aspekt Do Helix	800	★★★★☆	Sep 03	Excellent system enhancer but its build and finish don't reflect its high price.	75	48/40	4	R	3
Custom Design Aspect 850	330	★★★★☆	Mar 01	Helps deliver tonal evenness and clarity.	85	46/36	5	G	6
Henley WR-5	350	★★★★★	Sep 03	Beautifully crafted and boosts performance without costing an arm and a leg.	85	48/45	5	G	4
Optimum OPT 4906	250	★★★★☆	Sep 99	Looks good, sounds good and is reasonably priced.	79	61/46	4	G	6
Optimum OPT 5000	350	★★★★☆	Aug 00	Sturdy and provides sharp focus and imaging.	79	61/52	5	G	6
Optimum OPT 5500	350	★★★★☆	Mar 01	Excellent design that's stable and simple looking.	81	61/52	5	G	6
Sonus Systems Eclipse AS range	199	★★★★☆	Sep 02	Affordable but the clip-in shelves lack the stability of fixed shelf designs.	82	47/35	5	G	2
Sound Organisation Z545	175	★★★★☆	Feb 99	Sounds almost as good as it looks.	70	50/40	4	G	2
Soundstyle XS105	345	★★★★☆	Oct 01	Fine rack, revealing great dynamics and a tight and powerful bottom end.	87	60/42	5	G	5
Stands Unique Sound Tower	319	★★★★★	Jun 95	For ease of use, quality of sound and price, this is a winner.(Tested at £250.)	87	72/42	5	G	5
Townshend Seismic Sink Stand	810	★★★★★	May 02	Will eke every last percentage point out of a top class hi-fi system.	69	43x40	4	M	Bk
Triskom Tower 1	329	★★★★☆	Sep 99	Melamine spine and glass shelves - feels solid.	115	46/38	4	G	Bk
Triskom Tower 12	400	★★★★☆	Sep 03	Well-designed rack but the soundstage and dynamics feel a little restrained.	100	45/47	6	G	3

KEY | **Height** The height in cms of the review samples, or usually the maximum where available in a range of sizes. **Size** The maximum dimensions of the shelves, in cm – width and depth (ie front to back). **No of shelves** The number of shelves you get. Most racks come in a variety of configurations, at various prices **Shelf material** G = glass; W = wood/MDF; St = steel; O = other, M = MDF, R.= Resinant Damping Compound. **Colour** Number of frame colours available

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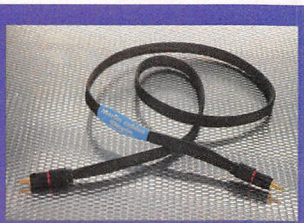

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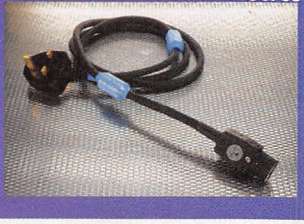

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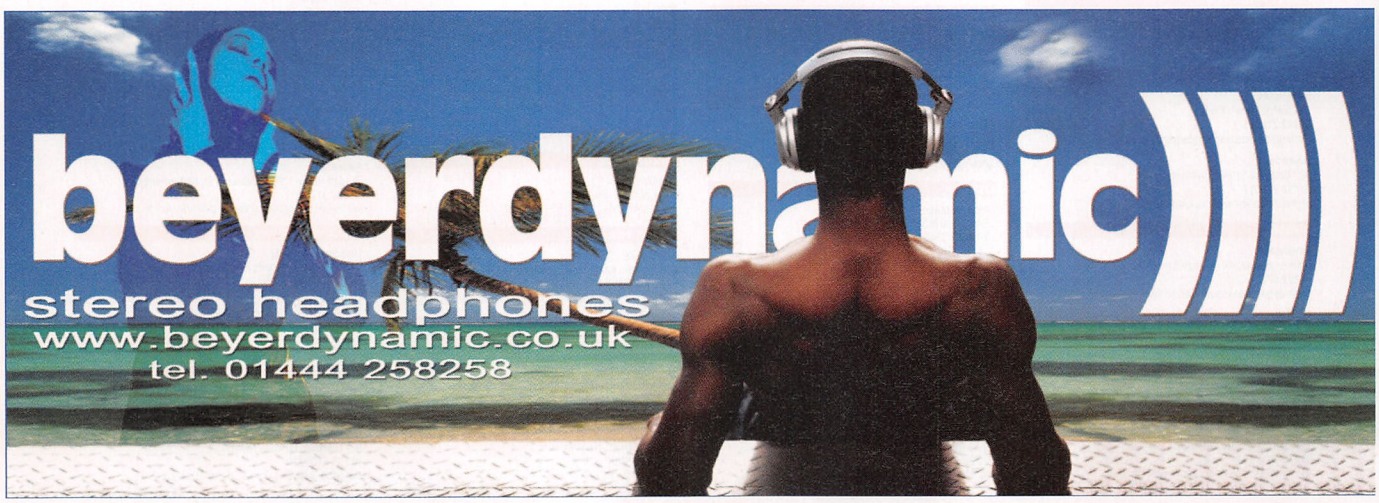
★★★★★ Supertest winner
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

Headphones

Up to £750

PRODUCT	£	VERDICT	TESTED	WE SAID...	Weight	Type	Jack
AKG K-55	25	★★★☆☆	Aug 99	Good imaging and detail although at times we wished for more excitement.	210	Closed	3.5/6.3
AKG K-66	30	★★★☆☆	Apr 00	Don't suit long listening sessions but they work a treat for a dip into the classics.	210	Closed	3.5/6.3
AKG K105 UHF	60	★★★★★	Nov 00	By far the best-sounding cordless designs we have heard and the system works a treat.	220	S/Open	3.5/6.3
AKG K141 Monitor	80	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Retro design and surprisingly comfortable, but they lack dynamic range.	225	S/Open	3.5/6.3
AKG K240 Monitor	100	★★★★☆	Sep 91	Smooth and enjoyable but low end coloration slightly softens and slurs deep bass.	240	S/Open	3.5/6.3
AKG K401	100	★★★☆☆	Feb 98	Reasonably dynamic and expressive headphones. They're certainly worth an audition.	230	Open	3.5/6.3
AKG K501	130	★★★☆☆	Jul 98	If you're a fan of bass-driven tracks the K501s are worth a listen.	230	Open	3.5/6.3
AKG Hearo 777 Quadra	220	★★★☆☆	Dec 02	Wireless phones that can simulates eight speakers in the cans. Not great with stereo.	320	S/Open	3.5/6.3
AKG K1000	550	★★★☆☆	Jul 93	Pleasing sense of space that doesn't give that in the head sound. Need a quality amp.	270	Open	XLR
Audio Technica ATH-910 Pro	84	★★☆☆☆	Feb 98	Average at best, they lack drive and punch and rock is distinctly undramatic.	205	Closed	6.3
Audio Technica ATH-M40FS	105	★★★★☆	Jun 97	'Studio' headphones with an excellent balance across a wide range of music.	250	Closed	6.3
Beyer DT 131	30	★★★★☆	Aug 99	Easygoing, lightweight and comfy and they pack a punch despite low volume.	130	Open	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT 231 Galactic	45	★★★★★	Aug 01	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Delivers music with confidence and dynamic agility.	130	Closed	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT 331	70	★★★☆☆	Jul 96	Sound surprisingly flat. Comfortable enough to prevent fatigue over longterm listening.	240	Open	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT 431	80	★★★★☆	Feb 95	Firmly in the top deck, but the sound is not gutsy enough to do justice to all music.	210	Open	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT 531	100	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Achieve a warm, realistic sound with most genres from complex metal to classical.	240	Open	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT 831	120	★★★☆☆	Jul 98	Handle busy mixes with ease but trade timing for detail.	295	Closed	3.5/6.3
Beyer DT 990	200	★★★★☆	Oct 03	Partner with a suitable headphone amp and you're guaranteed a pleasant, long-term listen.	NA	Open	3.5/6.3
Ergo Model 2	149	★★★★☆	Feb 98	Not cheap and look daffy but they sound great and are fabulous for acoustic music.	365	Open	6.3
Ergo AMT	600	★★★★☆	Awd 97	Buy the Ergos for dynamic detail, excellent bass and super-fast handling of transients.	580	Open	6.3
Grado SR60	90	★★★★★	Jan 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Remarkably airy, open sound.	200	Open	3.5/6.3
Grado SR80	110	★★★★★	Feb 98	Truly wonderful headphones, they may not look it but these headphones are special.	200	Open	3.5/6.3
Grado SR125	160	★★★★☆	Nov 99	Deserve high praise for their sound - only their lack of comfort counts against them.	140	Open	6.3
Grado SR225	210	★★★★☆	Jul 98	Look basic but they amaze with their power and presence. These Grados are hard to beat.	200	Open	6.3
Grado RS1	750	★★★★★	Apr 98	Earth-movingly good, these wooden 'phones draw you right into the heart of music.	255	Open	6.3
Koss PortaPro KP-PP1	45	★★★☆☆	Feb 95	Designed for portability, they make a good upgrade from those supplied with personals.	59	Open	3.5/6.3
Koss StudioPro KP-R200	80	★★★☆☆	Jul 02	Comfortable but sound quality is below par - there are cheaper phones that sound better.	215	Open	3.5/6.3
Philips SBC-HP890	70	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Substantial, with vast velvet padded ear-shells, but they sound rather average.	330	Closed	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser MX500 (in-ear)	20	★★★★★	Jan 01	Much better bass, imaging and tonal purity over freebie in-ears. Funky little carry case.	N/A	in-ear	3.5
Sennheiser HD 433	20	★★★☆☆	Aug 97	OK for the price but no more, being all bass and treble with nothing much inbetween.	115	Open	3.5/6.3
✪ Sennheiser PX100	30	★★★★★	Apr 03	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Superb folding headphones.	60	Open	3.5
Sennheiser HD497	50	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Good value and sound quality is decent for 'phones that are are as svelte as these.	130	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD-500	70	★★★★☆	Jan 99	Comfortable with sensible styling and the sound quality is well up to the mark.	210	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD 270	80	★★★★☆	Nov 00	If you want to lock yourself away these circumaural phones are for you.	220	Closed	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser RS 45	80	★★☆☆☆	Oct 01	Wireless headphones - sound tinny and insubstantial, regardless of what you feed them.	160	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD 570 Symphony	90	★★★★☆	Nov 99	Near-perfect performance at a very affordable price. Will sit comfortably on most heads.	210	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HDC 451	90	★★★★☆	Aug 99	Look the business and we love the technology used to reduce background noise.	110	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD 250II	160	★★★★☆	Apr 92	Bring a sense of realism and natural rhythm to a sound that draws you in.	215	Closed	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD 580 Precision	200	★★★☆☆	Dec 93	Indulge you with an exact and detailed sound that relays every part of a performance.	260	Open	3.5/6.3
Sennheiser HD-600	250	★★★★★	Oct 97	Open, revealing, neutral and dynamic. Costly, but worth it for major headphone users.	260	Open	3.5/6.3
Sony MDR-CD780	75	★★★★☆	Jul 02	Deliver bags of detail with exuberance - try with your music before you buy.	300	Closed	3.5/6.3
Sony MDR-V700DJ	100	★★★☆☆	Nov 99	Ooze with hi-tech elegance but they fail to hack it on sound.	300	Closed	3.5/6.3
Vivanco SR210	30	★★★★☆	Jan 01	Respectable bass and they convey instruments with an airy feel.	N/A	Open	3.5/6.3
Vivanco FMH8080	100	★★★☆☆	Oct 01	Wireless cans that offer sturdy sound and good bass but they are no better than average.	260	Closed	3.5/6.3

KEY | **Weight** Given in grammes. Remember the lightest headphones aren't always the least comfortable, and a slightly heavier pair might sit more firmly on your head. **Type** Open-back headphones tend to give a sound that's more airy, spacious and well, open! Closed-back designs offer better isolation from outside noise, and usually better bass, while semi-open headphones attempt to combine the best points of the two styles. **Jack** 6.3mm for separates, 3.5mm for personals and minis.



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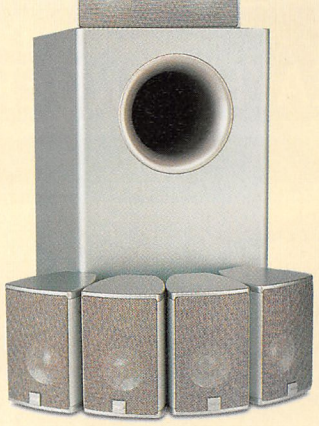

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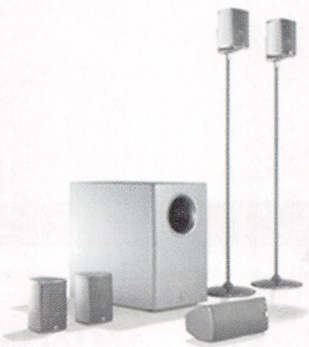

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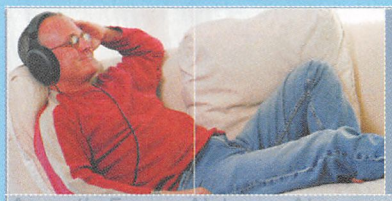

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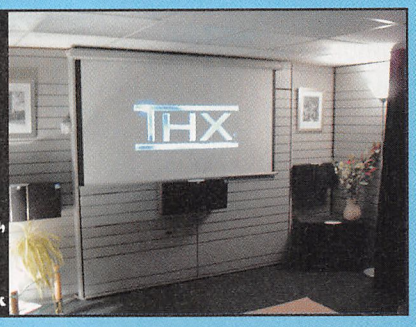

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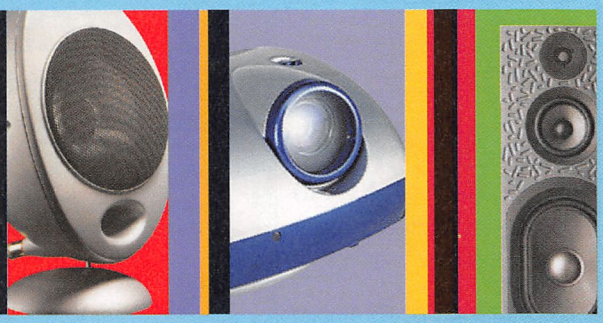

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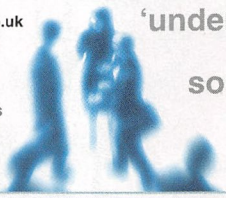

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